

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form**

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

☒ New Submission      Amended Submission ☐

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Historic Resources of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

- I. Initial Settlement and Development, 1790-1850
- II. Community Diversification and Economic Growth, 1851-1902
- III. Twentieth Century Development, 1902-1951
- IV. Architectural Development, 1790-1951

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**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. ( ) See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of carrying official Claire F. Blackwell/ Deputy SHPO

Date 28 February 2002

Missouri Department of Natural Resources,  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of action

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### INTRODUCTION

The City of Ste. Genevieve, the county seat of Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, contains a wealth of architectural and archeological resources dating from the late eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The city is nationally known for its French vernacular buildings and contains the largest number of French vertical log residences of any community in the United States. Lesser known but still of significance, are well-preserved examples of other architectural styles dating from the early nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

Ste. Genevieve is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River approximately 60 miles south of St. Louis, Missouri. The developed portion of the city is situated approximately .8 miles from the river. The land immediately adjacent to the river has historically been used as common agricultural land. Much remains in agricultural use. A portion of this land is the site of a nearly completed levee. The central business district of Ste. Genevieve extends from Main Street on the east to Fourth Street on the west and from Jefferson Street on the north to South Gabouri Street on the south. The business district is surrounded on three sides, the north, the west and the south by residential areas. The majority of residences in these nearby residential areas were built prior to 1950.

Systematic documentation of the architecture of the city began in the 1930s. In that decade, staff members of the Historic American Buildings Survey prepared written and photographic documentation of important buildings in the town. Shortly after, Charles E. Peterson, now an eminent historical architect, visited the town and described its historic buildings in two publications.<sup>1</sup>

Long known for its unmatched collection of French vernacular houses, Ste. Genevieve first obtained official recognition for its architecture when the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments approved the designation of Ste. Genevieve as a National Historic Landmark on April 22, 1959. Initial documentation of the landmark was incomplete with only a few of the city's buildings specifically named and briefly described.

Documentation of the city's architecture was greatly improved in the 1980s as a result of projects sponsored by the University of Missouri. This documentation included Historic American Buildings Survey recordation of the principal French vernacular residences in the community, as well as the first comprehensive survey of the historic architecture of the city. All subsequent documentation of the city's architecture has drawn upon the University of Missouri survey.

In 1999, the National Park Service contracted for revised National Historic Landmark documentation for the city. This documentation is presently in draft form and is expected to be completed by the end of 2001. Contributing resources listed in the draft landmark nomination include all identified French vernacular houses, as well as Anglo-American and German vernacular buildings constructed prior to 1850. In 2000, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources provided funding for the City of Ste. Genevieve to prepare National Register documentation for the community, in order to include resources in the National Register do not contribute to the significance of the National Historic Landmark District, but which possess either local or statewide significance due to their designs and/or historic roles in the community. This present document, as well as a National Register district nomination, are the products of this effort.

The narrative description of the history of Ste. Genevieve has been divided into three periods representing important chapters in the development of the community. Section E includes a discussion of each period in terms of general history, as well as a last context that specifically considers the architectural development of the city. Specific property types, their significance and registration requirements are discussed in Section F.

<sup>1</sup> "A Guide to Ste. Genevieve with Notes on its Architecture," prepared for the William Clark Society, 1939, and "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," *Missouri Historical Review* 35 (January 1941), 207-232.

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The Multiple Property documentation format was designed by the National Park Service to nominate groups of related significant properties. On the form, themes, trends, and patterns of history shared by properties are organized into historic contexts and property types representative of these historic contexts are defined. It may be used to nominate and register thematically-related historic properties simultaneously or establish the registration requirements for properties that may be nominated in the future. The Multiple Property format is used in Ste. Genevieve in recognition of the distribution of historic properties within the city. In addition to a central historic district, the city includes scattered properties and neighborhoods that possess individual significance. This cover documents provides the historic and architectural context that will be necessary to document the significance of these individual resources.

The periods representative of the history of Ste. Genevieve are as follows:

- I. **Initial Settlement and Development: 1790-1850..** This period covers the early history of Ste. Genevieve at its present site. Present documentary and physical evidence indicates that oldest known architectural resources, French vertical log houses, date from the last decade of the eighteenth century. In that same decade, the plat of the core of the present city was laid out between the forks of the Gabouri Creek. Surviving buildings from this era reflect the original French heritage of the community, the influx of Anglo-American settlers, the settlement patterns in the African American community, and the beginning of an influx of German immigrants. The starting point for this period represents the estimated date of construction of the earliest known standing building in the city, the Nicolas Janis House. The ending date for this period is the approximate construction date of the most recently built French vernacular dwelling, the Jean Birke Slave Cabin, and the beginnings of a large-scale German influx to the community. This period was selected to reflect the period of French influence in the built environment of the community.
- II. **Community Diversification and Economic Growth, 1851-1902.** With the establishment of the Plank Road between Ste. Genevieve and points west, the community began to develop ties to the larger Missouri economy. At the same time, the community became more ethnically diverse as additional German immigrants arrived, eventually becoming the predominant ethnic group. Although the economy of the city still was largely dependent upon agriculture, industries began to develop, and the central business district grew. By the end of this period, the economy of the city began to be transformed with the establishment of railroad service and the beginnings of large-scale lime production. Buildings from this period include examples of Missouri-German architecture and Anglo-American vernacular types, as well as examples of popular national styles. The starting date for this period was the date of commencement of construction on the Plank Road, while the ending date of this period is the date of establishment of the first lime processing company in the city. These two dates are representative of the economic transformation the community underwent in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- III. **Twentieth Century Development, 1902-1951.** The twentieth century growth and transformation of Ste. Genevieve was driven by the expansion of the lime industry. This period commences with the establishment of the first large-scale lime production company in the community. Beginning in the second decade of the twentieth century, industrial and population growth of the city increased. Four lime companies established operations in and around Ste. Genevieve. The growth of industry necessitated the growth of housing. Neighborhoods that had been platted in the nineteenth century were developed with houses in then popular styles and forms, such as the American Foursquare and the bungalow. Rates of growth varied in the first half of the twentieth century, but the city matured with the construction of additional residences on vacant lots, additional construction of commercial, industrial and institutional buildings, and expansion south, north and west of the downtown. Residences are represented by popular national architectural styles and forms including the Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles and the foursquare, bungalow, Cape Cod/Williamsburg, and ranch forms. Two prominent institutional buildings employ the then-popular Colonial Revival style. This period ends, fifty years before present, with the beginnings of post-World War II development in the city, represented by Ste. Genevieve's earliest ranch houses.

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I. Initial Settlement and Development, 1790-1850

The period of this context coincides with the actual or estimated construction dates of the earliest and most recent extant French vertical log houses in the city of Ste. Genevieve. This period coincides with the period of French dominance of the culture of the community. At the time of the construction of the last vertical log house, the Jean Baptiste Birke House, c. 1850, the influence of French culture was waning due to the influx of German Catholics and Americans from the eastern states.

The first village of Ste. Genevieve was laid out in the fertile bottomlands on the west side of the Mississippi southeast of the center of the present city in about 1750. Ste. Genevieve was the last community established during the French Regime in the Illinois Country.

During the first portion of the eighteenth century, no urgent need existed to extend the line of French settlement across the Mississippi River into present Missouri. For several decades, the French considered the trans-Mississippi West the domain of Native Americans. As the century progressed, farming practices resulted in the depletion of soil on the east side of the river, and some inhabitants decided to plant crops on the opposite side. The first crops planted near present Ste. Genevieve were planted by residents of Kaskaskia. During its first few years of settlement, Ste. Genevieve was considered a satellite community of Kaskaskia. By 1752, the population of Ste. Genevieve is recorded to have included 22 white adults and children and two black slaves.<sup>2</sup> The earliest settlers of the community moved there from other settlements in the Illinois Country including Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Post Vincennes, Prairie du Rocher, and Nouvelle Chartres.<sup>3</sup>

The pattern of initial settlement was influenced by the *habitants'* French heritage. The heart of the Ste. Genevieve economy was one of the largest compounds of arable fields in the Illinois Country. Known as *le Grand Champ* or the Big Field, it consisted of approximately 7,000 acres of land enclosed within a common fence.<sup>4</sup> The parcel was divided into narrow, elongated lots often delineated by pecan trees that extended westward from the Mississippi River. Each lot contained between 68 and 136 acres of land.<sup>5</sup>

Following the Seven Years' War, Ste. Genevieve's population increased significantly. The population increase can be attributed in part to the influx of French Catholics from the east bank of the Mississippi who feared religious and political persecution at the hands of the British following France's loss of that territory to England.<sup>6</sup> The 1773 census indicated a population of 676, of which 276 were African Americans.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Carl Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country: the Mississippi Frontier in Colonial Times* (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1998), 152.

<sup>3</sup> Susan C. Boyle, "Did She Generally Decide? Women in Ste. Genevieve, 1750-1805," *William and Mary Quarterly*, Third Series, 44:4 (October 1987):777.

<sup>4</sup> Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country*, 128.

<sup>5</sup> Walter A. Schroeder, "Opening the Ozarks: Historical Geography of the Ste. Genevieve District (Missouri), 1760-1830," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Missouri, Columbia, 2000: 244.

<sup>6</sup> F. Terry Norris, "Ste. Genevieve, a French Colonial Village in the Illinois Country," in *French Colonial Archaeology: The Illinois Country and the Western Great Lakes*, edited by John A. Walthall (Urbana Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1991), 135.

<sup>7</sup> Bill Naeger, Patti Naeger and Mark L. Evans, *Ste. Genevieve: A Leisurely Stroll Through History* (Ste. Genevieve: Merchant Street Publishing 1999):7.

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The original site of Ste. Genevieve was subject to frequent flooding, flooding that threatened to destroy the inhabitants' homes. The year 1785 was known as *l'annee des grandes eaux* (the year of the great waters). Water between 12 and 15 feet deep inundated the town and forced rivermen to tie their boats to the tall chimneys of the larger residences.<sup>8</sup> This great flood proved a major impetus in the relocation of the town, a relocation that took more than a decade to complete.

A majority of the residents of the Old Town settled on a site at a major break in the river bluffs between the two Gabouri creeks. This site was located next to the northern end of the Point Basse fields allowing *habitants* easy access to their land holdings.<sup>9</sup>

The new village of Ste. Genevieve was laid out as an imperfect grid of square blocks, measuring approximately 350 to 400 feet on a side, divided into four square *terrains* generally 180 feet to 190 feet on a side. Streets met at approximate right angles. Near the center of the village was a *place* or public square. In 1793, the old Ste. Genevieve church was disassembled and moved to the *place*. This grid plan layout was typical of French settlements in the Mississippi River Valley.

David Denman, in his study of peasant society in early Ste. Genevieve, described the organization of the village:

Each *habitant* owned a village lot one arpent square where he built his home (always fronting on the street), barn, poultry shed, slave quarters—all of the structures associated with domestic life and agricultural employment—and then surrounded the whole with a formidable fence of cedar stakes. Orchards and large gardens with all manner of vegetables and fruits filled the remaining portions of the manse within the fence. The manse was separated from the field lots. The *habitant* did not build his home directly on the land he owned in the agricultural common field.<sup>10</sup>

The dwelling itself was constructed of vertical logs either placed directly into the ground or anchored to a timber sill. Most houses were one story high with a usable attic. Roofs were generally dual-pitched. The shallow-pitched outer section provided the roof of galleries that extended along two or four sides of the house core.

The economy of eighteenth and early nineteenth century Ste. Genevieve was largely agricultural and depended heavily on the labor of slaves. As Carl Ekberg noted, the system of exploiting the soil was primitive and inefficient, in part because the rich soil of the Big Field permitted inefficiency and in part because of the lack of knowledge of agricultural innovations among the predominantly French residents. Crops were overwhelmingly maize and wheat and were predominantly milled with horse mills.

Ste. Genevieve's commercial contacts were maintained largely through New Orleans and were, according to Ekberg, dominated by the mercantile policies of France and Spain. The community exported raw materials and imported finished products. Looms and weavers, for example, were not present in the town, because it was the colonial community's obligation to purchase manufactured cloth from the mother country.<sup>11</sup>

The initial settlers of Ste. Genevieve were almost entirely French. After the end of the Revolutionary War, Anglo-American immigration to the Louisiana Territory began. Among the earliest Anglo-American settlers of the Ste. Genevieve District were brothers John and Israel Dodge who came as early as 1788<sup>12</sup> and settled in New Bourbon. By 1793, perhaps a dozen Americans

<sup>8</sup> William E. Foley, *The Genesis of Missouri: From Wilderness Outpost to Statehood* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989), 88.

<sup>9</sup> Schroeder, "Opening the Ozarks," 268-269.

<sup>10</sup> David Denman, "French Peasant Society in Flux and Stress: The Reintegration of Traditional Communal Activity in Ste. Genevieve, 1703-1830," Master's thesis, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1980, 16, 18.

<sup>11</sup> Carl J. Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve: An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier*, second edition (Tucson: The Patrice Press, 1996), 457.

<sup>12</sup> *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, originally published 1888 (Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Ramfre Press, 1955), 244.

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lived in Ste. Genevieve and environs.<sup>13</sup> Most early Anglo-American settlers came to Missouri via the Ohio Valley from their former homes in Kentucky and Tennessee. These new settlers generally showed a preference for upland areas in contrast to the French, who preferred locations close to the river.<sup>14</sup> In 1800, the population amounted to 1,163 of which 350 were African American and mulatto.<sup>15</sup>

During the 1780s and 1790s, about forty percent of all households in Ste. Genevieve owned at least one black or mulatto slave. These slaves were used for a wide variety of tasks including field work, clearing land, cutting wood, mining lead, rowing *batteaux*, salt making, domestic help, and some skilled labor. Because the economy of Ste. Genevieve revolved around agriculture, black slaves were primarily agricultural laborers. The censuses of 1787 and 1791 indicated that the town's town six agricultural producers owned about one-half of its black and mulatto slaves.<sup>16</sup>

The leading family of Ste. Genevieve foresaw the eventual dominance of American culture in the community. In 1796, Francois Vallé II sent his son Francois Vallé III to New York to study English. The elder Vallé claimed that the population of the District nearly doubled during the first half of 1797 and requested an English interpreter to deal more effectively with newly arrived Americans. These early Americans tended not to settle in the village itself but in the countryside surrounding Ste. Genevieve.<sup>17</sup>

Some were attracted by inexpensive land, others by what they viewed as crowding in their home state.<sup>18</sup> The Americans brought with them improved agriculture and technology. They sowed their crops on the uplands instead of merely on the Mississippi River floodplain, and they built improved mills. An example of the latter was the Dodge mill on Dodge Creek.<sup>19</sup>

A major event in early nineteenth century Ste. Genevieve was the establishment of the Academy. This institution may have been the first public school west of the Mississippi River. The Academy was organized in a meeting of subscribers in September 1807. Father James Maxwell was chosen to be chairman of the Academy's Board of Trustees. From the beginning, Maxwell planned an academy in which instruction was given in both French and English. The Academy began instruction in 1810.

The French colonial flavor of Ste. Genevieve did not disappear overnight. As late as 1810, visitors still viewed the town as an insular community. Christian Schultz wrote, "There is a small circle of Frenchmen, who, from a familiar intercourse with the Americans, have conquered both their local and religious prejudices, and may be considered as agreeable society."<sup>20</sup>

However, the influx of Anglo-Americans had begun to transform the community. In 1811, Henry Brackenridge, a former resident who had spent much of his boyhood in Ste. Genevieve, wrote:

Upon the whole, the American manners, and even language begin to predominate. The young men have already been formed by our government, and those growing up will have known no other. A singular change has taken place, which one would think ought not to be the result of a transition from a despotic to a republican government; luxury has increased in a wonderful degree, and there exists something like a distinction in the classes of society.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Carl J. Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 465.

<sup>14</sup> Russel L. Gerlach, *Immigrants in the Ozarks: A Study in Ethnic Geography* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1976), 16-17.

<sup>15</sup> Naeger, Naeger and Evans, *Ste. Genevieve*, 7.

<sup>16</sup> Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 210.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, 464-465.

<sup>18</sup> Robert Sidney Douglass, *History of Southeast Missouri*, originally published in 1912 by Lewis Publishing Company, New York (Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Ramfre Press, 1961), 176.

<sup>19</sup> Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 467.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 468.

<sup>21</sup> Henry Brackenridge, *Views of Louisiana* (Chicago: Quadrangle, 1962), 145.



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In 1812, Missouri became an official territory with a governor and general assembly. The County of Ste. Genevieve was established as one of the five original territorial districts. In the early years of the town, before the formation of an island on the western side of the Mississippi, boats could moor at the foot of the town streets. In 1817, the steamboat *Pike* tied up at Ste. Genevieve.<sup>22</sup>

Only in the second quarter of the nineteenth century did the French-speaking population and the French language lose their position of preponderance and French vernacular architecture become subordinate to Anglo-American and German styles.<sup>23</sup>

Although most African Americans in pre-Civil War Ste. Genevieve were slaves, there were also prominent free African Americans in the community. Two of the city's vertical log houses, the Amoureux and the Bequette-Ribault House, both on Ste. Mary's Road, were both owned by free African Americans. The Bequette-Ribault House came into the possession of "Clarise, a free woman of color" who was brought to Ste. Genevieve by John Ribault. In 1837, Clarise purchased the house and raised her children by Ribault there after his death. Benjamin Amoureux married Pelagie Vital, a mulatto, and lived in the Amoureux house with his wife and children.<sup>24</sup>

Ste. Genevieve experienced moderate growth during the first portion of the nineteenth century as Anglo-Americans continued to locate in the community. The third major European ethnic group to settle in Ste. Genevieve was the Germans. Although the first German immigrants arrived in Ste. Genevieve in the early nineteenth century, a sizeable influx did not begin until the 1840s. Beginning in that decade, German immigrants who arrived in eastern ports began to make their way across the mountains and down the Ohio River to the Mississippi. Others arrived in New Orleans and booked passage on a steamboat up the Mississippi. Most immigrants arrived in St. Louis. Many remained but others fanned out across Missouri.<sup>25</sup>

German settlement became concentrated in an arc along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Friedrich Muench, in his 1859 survey, indicated that New Madrid, Cape Girardeau, and Ste. Genevieve all had sizeable German populations.<sup>26</sup> Most of the Germans who settled in Ste. Genevieve came from the Black Forest region of southwestern Germany, primarily from villages surrounding Baden-Baden in the Duchy and Baden. These emigrants were primarily lower middle class including small farmers, shopkeepers, and skilled craftsmen, representatives of the economic strata who were displaced in the modernizing and industrializing economy of Germany. Many of these migrants, who had lived near the border with France, spoke French as well as German.<sup>27</sup>

The predominant property types representative of the initial settlement and development of Ste. Genevieve include French vernacular and Anglo-American vernacular residences, as well as the earliest German residences. As noted, French vernacular residences are identifiable by their use of vertical log wall construction. Anglo-American residences were predominantly constructed using either heavy timber frame or horizontal log construction. Smaller numbers were built of stone or of brick. At least one Ste. Genevieve residence, the Antoine O'Neill House, shows the mixing of the two traditions with a French vernacular form and heavy timber wall construction. These early buildings are concentrated in downtown Ste. Genevieve and south of the Gabouri Creek on St. Mary's Road, south of downtown. Smaller numbers of properties are located west and north of downtown in areas which would have been rural at the time the buildings were erected.

<sup>22</sup> Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission, *Ste. Genevieve Comprehensive Plan* (Perryville, Missouri: Southeast Missouri Planning and Economic Development Commission, 1978, 17.

<sup>23</sup> Ekberg, *Colonial Ste. Genevieve*, 468.

<sup>24</sup> Naeger, Naeger and Evans, *Ste. Genevieve*, 77.

<sup>25</sup> Robyn Burnett and Ken Luebbering, *German Settlement in Missouri: New Land, Old Ways* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1996), 18-19.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 58.

<sup>27</sup> Barbara Sanders, "The Germans of Ste. Genevieve, 1830-1890," University of Missouri seminar paper (Dr. Susan Flader), 1980, 3-5.

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A majority of the early buildings now used for commercial purposes were built as residences and converted to commercial use as the community grew and developed. Examples of these buildings include the John Price House (now the Old Brick Restaurant) on South Third Street and the John Donahue House (now the Southern Hotel), also on South Third Street. Buildings initially erected for commercial or institutional use include the Jean Baptiste Bossier Warehouse and Dufour-Rozier Building, both on Merchant Street and the Academy on North Fifth Street.

Most of the German homes in Ste. Genevieve were located in or near the business district, enabling the immigrants to recreate the small businesses they had left behind in Germany. Immigrant dwellings were typically two-to-four room cottages, one or one-and-one-half stories high, constructed of brick. Gable roofs, with or without dormers, were nearly universal. Plans were often rectangular or L-shaped. The craftsmanship of German buildings is evident in brick decorative cornices, brick arches, stone or wooden, lintels, and classical doorways with glazed transoms.<sup>28</sup> The earliest extant German house in Ste. Genevieve is the brick Martin Intress House on North Third Street.

No early Ste. Genevieve buildings have been identified that are solely associated with the African American population of the community. Instead, as noted, several French and Anglo-American vernacular residences had free African American occupants in the years prior to Emancipation. In addition to the Amoureux and Bequett-Ribault Houses on St. Mary's Road, an outbuilding of the Moses Austin property on South Gabouri Street was also owned by an African American woman.

Vernacular interpretations of national styles were also represented in early Ste. Genevieve. Some of the more imposing buildings in the early town, including the John Donahue House, the Academy, and the Millard-Vallé House represent local interpretations of the Federal style. These interpretations incorporate the symmetry and fenestration of the style without the decorative sophistication of "high style" examples.

## II. Community Development and Economic Growth, 1851-1902

The second context represents the period of shift of the Ste. Genevieve economy from an insular one based largely on subsistence agriculture to one in which industry and trade played an increasingly important role. The beginning of this period was marked by the establishment of a plank road connecting the community to the mining regions to the west. For a brief period, Ste. Genevieve became a major Mississippi River port, serving as the shipment point of the products of the mines. The end of this period is represented by the establishment of the first large-scale limestone mining and processing company. This industry dominated the twentieth century economy of Ste. Genevieve and was represented by a twentieth century residential and business boom in the city.

The first major effort to diversify the community's economy beyond farming occurred in the mid-nineteenth century. Enterprising local investors viewed the town's future as linked to the mines located further west. If efficient means could be developed to bring products of the mines to the Mississippi River in Ste. Genevieve, the town could develop as a major river port. In 1851, construction of the Plank Road was begun. This road followed the general route of present-day Market Street and then extended along what later became the Ste. Genevieve-Farmington county road (present Missouri Route 32).<sup>29</sup> It extended a distance of 42 miles from Ste. Genevieve to Iron Mountain. For the first few years, an immense business was carried on over it. It carried a large proportion of the iron ore from the mines, marble and granite from quarries, and agricultural products from the hinterlands. Six years after the construction of the Plank Road, travel on it dropped precipitously when the Iron Mountain Railroad was completed, diverting much of the produce and traffic to St. Louis.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Charles van Ravenswaay, *The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1977), 225-236.

<sup>29</sup> The route of the Plank Road is commemorated by a historical marker on Market Street.

<sup>30</sup> Missouri General Utilities Company, *Industrial Survey of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri* (Ste. Genevieve: Missouri General Utilities Company, 1926), 35.

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Local businessmen and landowners saw the potential for growth in mid-nineteenth century Ste. Genevieve. Several additions were established and platted into lots. Bartholemi DuRocher's addition to the City of Ste. Genevieve, platted in 1850, laid out portions of present LaPorte Street, Division Street, LaHaye Street, and Little Rock Road [present North Main Street]. A series of 60-foot wide lots was laid out. Many of the lots were not built on in the nineteenth century, but the street layout was established.

Ziegler's Addition of 1852 subdivided land north of the North Fork of the Gabouri Creek and west of the family's Mississippi River landing. In anticipation of substantial growth, a series of lots, each roughly 30 feet wide, was laid out in a basically rectangular grid pattern. The subdivision was laid out by the Ziegler brothers near the Mississippi River landing they owned with a view to increasing its traffic. Few of the lots were actually built upon but significant portions of the street grid were laid out.

Berthod's Addition to the City, recorded in 1854, included the subdivision of parcels on the north and south sides of Jefferson Street from Fifth Street to present Ninth Street. Many of these parcels were not built upon until late in the nineteenth or early in the twentieth centuries. A final mid-nineteenth century subdivision was platted at Little Rock Landing. These streets were never actually laid out, and the area later became the site of quarries, boarding houses, warehouses, and a small office building, all owned by the U.S. Government.<sup>31</sup>

By 1860, the majority of heads of households in Ste. Genevieve were of German birth or ancestry. A significant minority (34.8%) were Missouri-born French, with the remainder of the population consisting of Anglo-Southern whites, a smaller number of northern whites, and enslaved and free African Americans. The large proportion of French and German residents differentiated Ste. Genevieve from the surrounding countryside and nearby communities. In these areas the overwhelming majority of the population was Anglo-Southern in origin.<sup>32</sup>

With the Emancipation, those African Americans who remained in Ste. Genevieve who had not been previously freed by their owners were now free. Several African American communities developed in and around the town. The only such community still represented by standing buildings is that on St. Mary's Road in the vicinity of the South Fork of the Gabouri Creek. Two residences remain from the community, 309 St. Mary's Road and the Brooks House, 311 St. Mary's Road. Both are two-story, wood-framed vernacular house types placed on raised foundations, and both were erected during the second half of the nineteenth century. A third property historically associated with the African American community is the Lincoln School on Washington Street. This school, erected in about 1860, served as the community's only African American public school between about 1894 and 1929.

For much of the second half of the nineteenth century, Ste. Genevieve's economy continued to be dominated by agriculture. L.A. Wilson's 1876 directory of southeast Missouri and southern Illinois showed a town with businesses typical of a small agricultural community. Among them were a grocery store, a watchmaker and jeweler, a banker, two boot and shoe manufacturers, a merchant and a tailor, an attorney, a tin shop, a stove and tinware store, a dressmaker, a general merchandise store, and a hotel.<sup>33</sup>

In 1876, work began on the construction of the present Gothic Revival Catholic church. Services continued in the earlier rock church as the new brick building was built around and over it. The rock church was eventually dismantled, but its foundation is still visible in the present church basement. The new church, which still dominates the skyline of the city, was dedicated in 1880 and cost \$24,000 to build.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Ste. Genevieve, Mo.* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1894).

<sup>32</sup> Michael O. Roark, *Cultural Geography of Missouri* (Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Southeast Missouri State University, 1983), 32.

<sup>33</sup> As cited in Robert Sidney Douglass, *History of Southeast Missouri*, originally published in 1912 by Lewis Publishing Company, New York (Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Ramfre Press, 1961), 260-261.

<sup>34</sup> Naeger, Naeger and Evans, *Ste. Genevieve*, 113.

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A review of advertisements in an 1879 issue of the local newspaper, *The Fair Play*, indicates that the community was served by a typical range of services and professionals. A tinware dealer was located on Main Street. Other downtown businesses included John L. Bovarie's drygoods store, Joseph Vorst's People's Hack Line and Southern Hotel, C.W. Hamm's Ste. Genevieve One Price Clothing Store, Ste. Genevieve Livery, Feed, and Sales Stables on South Third Street, and Leo Jokerst's Union Hall at Merchant and Third streets which included a saloon and a dancing hall. Professionals included several attorneys; real estate agents; a surveyor; druggists; a dentist; a physician; two barbers, one of whom described himself as a "tonsorial artist"; a house, sign and carriage painter; and J.S. Whitlock, carpenter, builder and architect.

By the 1880s, Ste. Genevieve had begun the transition from an economy largely dependent on agriculture to a mixed agricultural-industrial economy. Important early industries included the Ste. Genevieve Brewery, located on North Third Street, north of the North Fork of the Gabouri Creek, and Cone Mills, located on North Main Street, south of the North Fork of the Gabouri Creek.

The brewery, owned by Valentine Rottler, originally consisted of a one to two-and-one-half story, basically rectangular, brick block that contained an icehouse, cellars in which the mash tub and kettle were located, and a malt kin. A note on the 1884 Sanborn map indicated that the building would be remodeled and adjusted with modern improvements within a short time.<sup>35</sup> Rottler placed advertisements in local newspapers in which he proclaimed his beer "equal to any in the State." Soon, the surrounding area became known as "coopertown" in recognition of a barrel cooperage established to provide containers for the brewery's products.<sup>36</sup> Rottler also built his residence nearby on North Third Street, a handsome brick and stone I-house.

The Cone Mill was established in about 1856 by Eloy LeCompte. In a 1879 advertisement, Martin Meyer, the superintendent of the mill indicated that the highest price was paid in cash for wheat and stated that "the well-known Choice Brands of Flour, "CONE" and "ELOY," and other grades kept constantly on hand for sale, at the Lowest Possible Figures." In 1880, the mill was severely damaged when the mill's two steam boilers exploded. Two men were killed including superintendent Meyer. The mill was later rebuilt and operated as the Fisher Flour Company. In 1894, the five-story mill had a capacity of 250 barrels and also included a 65,000-bushel elevator.<sup>37</sup>

In addition to the Cone Mills, the 1894 Sanborn maps showed numerous businesses in downtown Ste. Genevieve. The concentration of businesses was, as today, along Merchant, Market, Third and Main streets. Merchant Street businesses included a meat market with rendering facilities in the cellar, a saloon, the post office with a hand printing establishment on the second floor, a restaurant and notions shop, a bakery, and a general store. Market Street businesses included two cobblers, a blacksmith, a wagon shop, two grocery stores, a jeweler, a drug store, a general store and bakery, a hardware and tin shop, a barber, a restaurant, and an undertaker. The Southern Hotel and T. Vorst livery were located on the south end of Third Street. The block opposite the county complex included a saloon, a meat market, a general store, and a warehouse. Main Street businesses included Meyers Hotel, a general store and warehouse, a saloon, a harness shop, a meat market, a barber, an undertaker and carpenter, a furniture and cabinet shop, and an agricultural implements warehouse. Businesses located in outlying parts of the community included R. Wehner and Sons lumber yard on Little Rock Road north of the Gabouri and Wehner and Bolle's City Mill on North Third Street. The latter enterprise had a capacity of 80 barrels per day. Two cooper's shops were located behind the mill. Civic buildings included the county courthouse, offices and jail on the west side of Third Street, a public school at the southeast corner of Second and Market streets, a second school house at the northeast corner of Fourth and Merchant streets, and an unfinished Catholic school building on the north side of Merchant Street east of Fourth Street.<sup>38</sup> Residential development was concentrated in the vicinity of the central business district but had begun to spread north and south of the forks of the Gabouri.

An 1897 letter to the editor of the Ste. Genevieve Herald opined, "Without a railroad, Ste. Genevieve must pass into history, a relic of the past."<sup>39</sup> This deficiency was rectified in the late nineteenth century when the city became connected to the larger railroad network. The Illinois Southern Railroad, constructed in 1901, crossed through the center of the County from east to west.

<sup>35</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Ste. Genevieve, Mo.* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1884).

<sup>36</sup> Naeger, Naeger and Evans, *Ste. Genevieve*, 122.

<sup>37</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Ste. Genevieve, Missouri* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1894).

<sup>38</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Ste. Genevieve*, 1894.

<sup>39</sup> Naeger, Naeger and Evans, *Ste. Genevieve*, 22.

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This line, later the Missouri-Illinois Railroad, provided service into the Lead Belt area of St. Francois County, west of Ste. Genevieve. In recent years, the western portion of the latter line has been closed, and the line is primarily used to serve the Mississippi Lime Company. The St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad established a line along the west shore of the Mississippi River and connected Ste. Genevieve to many cities to its south. In 1904, the Illinois Southern Railroad began operating a ferry at Little Rock Landing north of Ste. Genevieve to carry railroad cars across the Mississippi River to Kellogg, Illinois. The transfer ferry operated until 1961. The landing was also used for river transportation of the city's products.

In 1900, the city had a population of 1,707. In the first decade of the twentieth century, the population grew by 15 percent to 1,967.<sup>40</sup> Agriculture remained a preeminent part of the economy of Ste. Genevieve and vicinity in the first decade of the twentieth century. In 1902, a total of 33,870 acres of land in the county was planted in wheat while 18,356 acres were planted in corn. The total value of the two crops was over \$500,000.<sup>41</sup> Commercial facilities included two flouring mills, two cigar factories and an ice plant.<sup>42</sup> The first decade of the twentieth century marked the genesis of the modern lime industry in Ste. Genevieve and helped transform the community from an agricultural village to a small industrial city.

Lime processing, now the single most important industry in the city, began in the area in the early nineteenth century. Rock outcroppings of limestone are commonly found along creek branches throughout the Ozarkian uplifts. Early settlers in the Gabouri Creek valley probably noticed these outcroppings and made use of them for lime mortar.

The first documentary reference to limestone processing in Ste. Genevieve is found in a deed from Celestine Thomure to Peter Moser in 1849. In this deed, 387 acres of land was transferred containing a number of buildings and structures including houses, barns, a corn crib, chicken house, and limekilns.<sup>43</sup> Local legend, cited by Roger Caputo in his history of the lime industry in Ste. Genevieve, indicated that Peter Moser's son, Ferdinand, improved the scale of lime making operations on the property during the late nineteenth century.<sup>44</sup>

The first commercial lime producer in Ste. Genevieve was the Ste. Genevieve Lime and Quarry Company. The company's first directors included William J. Hruska, president, and Philip Kolb, John L. Bogg, P.M. Huckle, J.T. Epstein, Gilbert Goodlet, Gardner F. von der Fehr, Aikman Welsh, Abraham Cook, and George Hruska. On November 25, 1902, the company purchased much of the Moser family land as the site of their operations.<sup>45</sup> Their plant was located west of the city near the old Boyer quarry.

The second producer to begin operations was the Western Lime Works, established in 1904. The company's founders were all prominent Ste. Genevieve residents and included John Tlapak, owner of a local lumber yard; attorney Jules Peterquin; and Henry Rozier, a member of the prominent banking and merchant family.

Western Lime Works's processing plant was established just east of downtown while their quarry was located on the north fork of the Gabouri Creek, about two miles from the plant. The plant initially consisted of six vertical kilns. Transportation of production was often by means of boats that could, at times of high water, navigate a slough that extended from the Mississippi up to the plant. Alternatively, lime was loaded on railroad cars. The rock feed for the kilns was initially transported by horse-drawn wagons and later by gasoline-powered trucks.

The third company to begin production of lime in the city was the Peerless White Lime Company, established in 1907. The company was established by Hunkins and Willis, partners in a St. Louis building product firm. The name of the company was selected in part from the fact that their quarry produced the purest and whitest stone of any quarry in the county.

<sup>40</sup> SMRPEDC, *Comprehensive Plan*, 38.

<sup>41</sup> Walter Williams, *The State of Missouri: An Autobiography* (Columbia: The Missouri Commission to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904), 504.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, 505.

<sup>43</sup> Ste. Genevieve County Deed Book G:387.

<sup>44</sup> Roger Caputo, "A History Summary of Lime Industry—Ste. Genevieve County," March 3, 2000, 3-4.

<sup>45</sup> Caputo, "A History," 5.

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Peerless began operation with an open-pit quarry but was eventually forced to go underground due to the difficulties of removing overburden. The company retained Colorado mining engineer Ralph Smith to design and supervise its underground mine. Peerless constructed eight vertical kilns, each with an induced draft fan fueled by a coal-fired gas producer.

Most historic resources associated with the early years of the lime industry in Ste. Genevieve have been demolished. Locations of lime quarries and lime processing facilities are known, and in some cases, archeological deposits may be present. The one operating lime company in Ste. Genevieve, Mississippi Lime Company, has largely rebuilt its facilities in recent years. Most or all of the buildings in its property west of U.S. Route 61 are less than fifty years of age. One resource located on the property is a nineteenth century stone limekiln. This structure, not accessible to the public, may well meet the significance and integrity requirements of the National Register.

Two of the major industrial buildings remain from this period. The brick brewery stands on North Third Street, and the stone Cone Mills, though altered and converted to a new use, remains on North Main Street. The brewery is presently undergoing rehabilitation for a new use. This context is also represented by governmental, commercial and institutional buildings, most located within the central business district of Ste. Genevieve. Together, these buildings are representative of the growing economy of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Ste. Genevieve.

Particularly notable is the complex of county buildings located on the west side of South Third Street between Merchant and Market Street. These brick buildings, which include the courthouse, the original jail, and a county office building, were built between 1870 and 1885 and are among the most exuberantly detailed buildings in the city featuring arched windows, stone keystones and stringers, corbelling, and iron cresting. The central building, the courthouse, was originally designed by St. Louis architect Jerome B. Legg.

Many of the older buildings in the central business district of Ste. Genevieve date from this period. Most of these buildings are of brick construction with storefronts on the ground floor and private spaces on the upper floors. Among the notable buildings of this period are the c. 1860 Jean Ferdinand Rozier Store on North Main Street, the Italianate brick Augustine Menard Building on South Main Street, the c. 1870 Anvil Restaurant on South Third Street, and the Mary E. Kern Building on Merchant Street with its basically unaltered pressed metal façade. Another notable building, indicative of the city's late nineteenth century role as a destination for businessmen and other travelers, is the 1882 Main Street Inn (originally the Meyer's Hotel) on North Main Street.

Institutional buildings representative of this period include several churches and a church school. The oldest of the churches, the 1869 Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Market Street, is indicative of the growing prominence of the German Protestant community in the second half of the nineteenth century. The predominance of the Catholic community is attested to by the dominating church of Ste. Genevieve, begun in 1876 on the designated public square. The original church school, whose stone north block dates from about 1865, is located south of the church on Duborg Place. The final historic church in the city, the modest Gothic Revival First Presbyterian Church on South Main Street, dates from 1904.

The architectural evolution of the city is most clearly shown in its residences. These residences demonstrate local builder's awareness of national architectural styles, as well as the continuing use of vernacular architectural forms. These residences include examples of Missouri German, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Victorian vernacular styles, as well as examples of the I-house, gable front and wing, T-plan, stack house, and foursquare forms. Notable residences are located both in downtown Ste. Genevieve, and in outlying areas, particularly north of the downtown. Among the prominent residences of the period are the 1858 German vernacular Fidel Hettig House on Seraphin Street; the c 1880 Second Empire Bertha Doerge House on North Main Street; the 1867 Italianate Jesse B. Robbins House on Merchant Street; and the Valentine Rottler House, an 1876 Victorian I-house on North Third Street.

**III. Twentieth Century Development, 1902-1951**

The twentieth century growth of Ste. Genevieve began with the establishment of the first large scale limestone processing company in 1902. As Ste. Genevieve's economy expanded with the establishment of quarries, limestone processing plants, and

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factories, its population began to increase substantially. Robert Sidney Douglass, in his 1912 *History of Southeast Missouri*, described Ste. Genevieve at that time:

The present town is a prosperous and flourishing community.... It is supported chiefly by the farming country around it, though there are some manufacturing plants, among them two large flouring mills, an ice plant, electric light plant, cigar factories, and a lime kiln. There are about fifty other business establishments.<sup>46</sup>

The city's appearance in 1911 is depicted in Sanborn maps of that year. The maps show the Ste. Genevieve lime works located two miles west of the courthouse with its four stone limekilns. Transportation of its products was by means of the Illinois Southern railroad whose siding extended into the complex. Peerless White Lime Company operated three iron limekilns at its complex located two and one-quarter miles west of the courthouse, while Western Lime Works operated three kilns at a site east of downtown. Other early twentieth century industry included Schaaf's Elevator, located in the former Cone Mill; the Ste. Genevieve Water and Light Plant, east of downtown; the Ste. Genevieve Brewery and Lighting Association and an adjacent bottling plant; the Illinois Southern Railroad shops, located east of Little Rock Road, a mile north of the courthouse; a second bottling plant on the south side of Merchant Street at Front Street; a steam laundry at the northeast corner of Third and Washington streets; and Wehner and Bolle City Mills on North Third Street.

The business district extended along Main Street, Merchant Street, Market Street, and Third Street. Newer businesses included a general store (Rozier's Store) at the northwest corner of Third and Merchant streets, a motion picture theater on the north side of Merchant Street, a lumber yard on Third Street north of Merchant, and two auto repair garages, one on the west side of South Third Street and the other on the south side of Market Street. A twenty-car garage was located on the north side of Market east of Third Street. Although still sparsely developed, houses were shown in portions of the area of the town north of the North Fork of the Gabouri. One and two-story, wood-framed houses were shown on LaHaye Street west of Little Rock Road with the notation that scattered dwellings were situated to the north.<sup>47</sup>

The city grew relatively slowly during the 1910s, its population increasing four percent to 2,046 by 1920. During the 1920s, this growth accelerated substantially. By the end of the decade the city's population was 2,662, an increase of thirty percent over a decade earlier.<sup>48</sup> This population growth is reflected in the physical environment of present day Ste. Genevieve with many streets lined with bungalows erected during that decade. Most of the Bungalow/Craftsman dwellings are anonymous buildings of little architectural distinction. Exceptions include a California-style bungalow at 302 South Fourth Street; the Dr. Lanning House, a brick Craftsman foursquare at 98 North Third Street, and a brick and stone-clad bungalow at 104 North Second Street.

The railroad continued to be important in the 1920s and 1930s. A 1932 report indicated that "excellent passenger service: was maintained on the St. Louis-Memphis branch of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad. Passenger service was provided by all-steel coach, diner and Pullman cars drawn by oil-burning locomotives. Four passenger trains stopped daily in Ste. Genevieve, two in each direction. Freight service as provided by six daily trains, three in each direction. Freight facilities included a freight house with a capacity of two and one-half cars of freight, a loading platform of two-car capacity for unloading large items, as well as a house track of 15-car length where shipments could be loaded or unloaded directly from car to truck or dray."<sup>49</sup>

Sanborn maps from 1929 illustrate the city as it appeared at the end of the decade. The three mid-nineteenth century additions to the city (Ziegler's, Durocher's and Berthold's) along with the late nineteenth century Vallé's addition had been largely developed, typically with one and two-story, wood-framed houses. New industrial facilities included the Ste. Genevieve

<sup>46</sup> Robert Sidney Douglass, *History of Southeast Missouri* (New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1912):254.

<sup>47</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Ste. Genevieve, Mo.* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1911).

<sup>48</sup> SMPEDC, *Comprehensive Plan*, 38.

<sup>49</sup> Missouri General Utilities Company, *Industrial Survey of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri* (Ste. Genevieve: Missouri General Utilities Company 1932). 45.

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Creamery on the west side of Third Street north of the LaHaye Street intersection; the Elder Manufacturing Company, a maker of shirts, on Merchant Street east of Main Street; the E.J. Schaefer Printing Company, on the south side of Merchant Street east of Main Street; the Reuter Milling Company on Washington Street east of Main Street; the vacant Animal Manufacturing Company building south of Market Street and east of Front Street; the Simon Bottling Works on South Gabouri Street; a Pierce Petroleum depot at the railroad tracks east of Front Street; and a Standard Oil Company depot in the same area. In addition, Ste. Genevieve Lime and Quarry Company had been enlarged, as had the Western Lime Works. The brewery had been converted to the Home Ice Company with a capacity of 30 tons of ice.<sup>50</sup> Indicative of changing activities, the city hosted several additional auto-related businesses, and a movie theater had been constructed on the west side of North Main Street. The theatre, the Missouri, later burned, and was replaced in the 1930s by the Orris Theatre on Merchant Street.

In 1930, the city had a sizeable transient African American population most of whom worked in the limekilns and stone quarries. In October of the year, two white residents were allegedly attacked by two African Americans. One of the white men was shot dead. In retaliation, a large number of men in automobiles warned the itinerant African American population to leave town. Although the target of the effort was the itinerant population, significant numbers of permanent residents left as well. A total of about 200 left the city. The African American population of Ste. Genevieve has never reached its former numbers.<sup>51</sup>

Into the twentieth century, the ethnic composition of the community remained quite stable. A writer in 1932 described the town as "about ninety percent Catholic" with "French and German elements in nearly equal proportions."<sup>52</sup>

The 1930s witnessed the establishment of an artist's colony in the community. The picturesque architecture and landscapes of the community lured two St. Louis artists to town, Jesse Beard Rickly and Bernard H. Peters. In 1932, they founded the colony. Young local artist Matthew Ziegler offered food, lodging and hospitality for the group. The colony set up headquarters at the Ziegler family-owned Mammy Shaw House at Merchant and Second streets. The artists attracted tourists and played a significant role in the emergence of the town as a tourist destination.

In 1934, Rickly and Aimee Schweig established the Ste. Genevieve Summer School of Art. Rickly was soon replaced by Schweig as the school's head. In 1936, the leading Missouri regionalist painter Thomas Hart Benton taught at the school. The school and the colony folded in the late 1930s in part due to the turmoil caused by a lime industry strike in 1938. Ziegler remained in Ste. Genevieve's Shaw House later adding a studio between it and the summer kitchen. A lasting legacy of the colony was the mural, "La Guignolee," painted in 1942 for the city post office.<sup>53</sup>

By the late 1920s, the lime industry dominated the economy of Ste. Genevieve. Four production facilities were located in the city or its immediate environs. The Western Lime Works was located east of the Missouri Southern Railroad tracks and the east end of Merchant Street. Railroad sidings connected the plant to the main railroad line. In 1926, the company employed 65 men. In 1929, company facilities included a kiln building housing six kilns, a lime warehouse and cooperage, and a machine shop.

The Peerless White Lime Company was located on the east side of State Highway 25, approximately 2 1/4 miles west of the courthouse. Its plant, served by railroad sidings, included a rock pulverizing plant served by an inclined tramway, two kiln buildings, a lime warehouse, and a storage building. Company housing, consisting largely of single story, wood-framed duplexes, was located north of the plant. In 1926, the Peerless Company was the largest employer in Ste. Genevieve. It employed 160 men and one woman. Peerless eventually constructed eight vertical kilns each with an induced draft fan and a fuel system consisting of a coal-fired gas producer, a device to convert coal to gas. The gas was routed through a maze of pipes to the kilns.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Ste. Genevieve, Mo.* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1929).

<sup>51</sup> Naeger, Naeger and Evans, *Ste. Genevieve*, 36-38.

<sup>52</sup> Hugh Graham, "Ste. Genevieve Academy: Missouri's First Secondary School," in *Mid-America* 15 (New Series, volume 4, October 1932), 67.

<sup>53</sup> Naeger, Naeger and Evans, *Ste. Genevieve*, 182-184.

<sup>54</sup> Caputo, "A History Summary," 7.



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Ste. Genevieve Lime and Quarry Company was also located on State Highway 25, two miles west of the courthouse. In 1929, its facilities included seven kilns, a hydrating building, a lime warehouse, a cooperage, a rock crushing plant, and a blacksmith shop. A narrow gauge railroad brought the stone from the quarry to the rock crushing plant and kilns. Railroad sidings connecting to the Missouri-Illinois Railroad provided transportation for the finished product. In 1926, the company was the second largest employer in the city, employing 80 men.

The last lime company to begin operations in the County was the Bluff City Lime and Stone Company, a subsidiary of Mississippi Lime and Minerals of Illinois. Initial land purchases were made by the company in 1923. In 1926, it employed a total of 71 workers.

In 1924, construction was begun on four vertical kilns. Additional kilns were added until the total reached 20 by 1929, the largest plant in Ste. Genevieve. A hydrator building and a lime warehouse were attached to the kiln building. The plant was tucked into a narrow site between the railroad right-of-way and the Plank Road. The quarry was located north of the plant across Plank Road and the rock feed for the kilns was moved via small dump cars on an elevated tramway to the top of the kilns.

The kilns were fueled by coal, hand-shoveled into semi-gas producer chambers attached to the kiln shells. Finished lime was removed to boxes moved by battery-driven carts in the lower level of the plant. Each kiln included an induced draft fan powered by electric power generated by the local utility.

As the company grew, own H.B. Mathews, Jr. acquired additional quarry property 4,000 feet east of the plant. A tippie building and crushing plant were erected at the site in 1929. The stone was conveyed to the plant in small dump cars.

To enlarge capacity, the company erected two rotary kilns, only the second such installation in the United States. Production of these kilns exceeded that of the 20 vertical kilns. A third rotary kiln was added in 1939 and was quickly followed by a fourth. The growth of the company overwhelmed its local competitors as Mathews's company purchased all available quarry land. The other firms ran out of stone. Western Lime Works was acquired in 1939 and shut down, and in 1948, Peerless and Ste. Genevieve were acquired.<sup>55</sup>

By 1969, the company operated 14 rotary kilns in two plants at Ste. Genevieve. In 1978, it was the only producer of lime in the county and operated the largest such plant in Missouri. The plant used rotary and vertical kilns to produce about 5,000 tons of lime daily. Products included quicklime, hydrated lime, precipitated calcium carbonate and crushed stone. Its products were shipped by rail, trucks, and barges.<sup>56</sup>

The expansion of Mathews's company, now known as Mississippi Lime, greatly contributed to the growth of the western portion of Ste. Genevieve. Beginning in the 1920s, bungalows to house company workers were erected along the old plank road (present Market Street) and on a new thoroughfare, Blain Street, south of Market Street. These bungalows, although altered, remain standing and may constitute a National Register-eligible district.

The Great Depression slowed both the economic and population growth of the city. Due to the economic downturn and labor strife, the city's limestone producers were forced to consolidate. Population growth slowed considerable from a decade earlier. During the 1930s, the population increased to 2,767, an increase of less than five percent during the period.<sup>57</sup>

With the end of the Second World War and the return of veterans to their home communities to find civilian jobs and start families, the population growth of the city again accelerated. The 1950 population was 3,992, an increase of more than 43

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, 9-10.

<sup>56</sup> SMRPEDC, *Comprehensive Plan*, 30.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, 38.

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percent from ten years earlier.<sup>58</sup> To accommodate this growing population, the city expanded its boundaries southward and new subdivisions began to be developed. The largest of these, the International Subdivision off South Fourth Street, was intended to accommodate workers at the International Shoe factory (now Bilt Best) on Coyne Street, off Mark Street.

In 1960, a total of 1,584 residents of the city were employed. The largest employment sectors were manufacturing, which employed 42.9% of residents, wholesale and retail trade, which employed 21.7 percent, and transportation, communications and other public utilities, which employed 10.5%. Agriculture, the historic mainstay of the city's economy, employed less than two percent of its residents.<sup>59</sup>

The most numerous type of building representative of this context is the house. Ste. Genevieve, as many other communities, witnessed substantial growth during the first third of the twentieth century. To accommodate the growing population, bungalows and foursquare were erected on vacant lots near downtown and on the streets of formerly undeveloped subdivisions. Several streets in the northern section of the city, including North Sixth Street and Biltmore Street, are lined with almost identical bungalows, evidence that a single builder erected the houses at one time. Most of the bungalows and foursquare are of wood-framed construction although smaller numbers of masonry examples exist, as well. In addition to humble dwellings for middle class workers, larger dwellings were erected for wealthier residents. Among these notable dwellings are the 1906 late Queen Anne-style, stone Judge Peter Heeck House on South Fourth Street, and the Colonial Revival Jules Petriquin House (now the Knights of Columbus Hall), erected in 1912 on Market Street.

The period of development of other residential areas of the city can be traced by their predominant housing type or style. For example, Academy Street with its Cape Cod and Tudor Revival dwellings developed during the late 1930s into the 1940s. The west end of Market Street with its predominant ranch houses and split levels was developed in the post-World War II era, as were several other subdivisions off Fourth Street south of downtown Ste. Genevieve.

This twentieth century development context is also represented by commercial, institutional, and governmental housing types. As noted, new building types were characteristic of the twentieth century. Among these were auto-related businesses and theaters. Ste. Genevieve has several historic automobile service stations both in the downtown area and on North Third Street, as well as an automobile dealership on Market Street. The Art Deco Orris Theater, now used as a nightclub and restaurant, was erected on Merchant Street in the 1930s. The business district was infilled with twentieth century buildings. Such buildings can be found on each of its streets. Major institutional buildings erected in the first half of the twentieth century include the 1935 Norman Revival museum, built to celebrate the purported bicentennial of the community; the 1939 Colonial Revival, brick post office on Merchant Street; and the 1935-1936 brick Colonial Revival brick high school (now Junior High School) on North Fifth Street.

Twentieth century industrial and industrial-related buildings provide evidence of the growth and diversification of the city's economy. Among the earliest of these buildings are the passenger and freight stations built east of downtown adjacent to the Saint Louis-San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad tracks. Other buildings and structures from the period include the former Animal Manufacturing Company factory east of the railroad tracks, a nearby fuel depot, the earliest portions of the Sylvanus Manufacturing Company, and the earliest portions of the International Shoe Company factory (now Bilt Best).

This period of Ste. Genevieve's history is also represented by engineering structures. A steel railroad bridge with timber bent approach span carries the Missouri-Illinois Railroad across South Main Street and the South Fork of the Gabouri Creek while several concrete girder vehicular bridges carry city streets over the North and South Forks of the Gabouri Creek.

**IV. Architectural Development, 1790-1951**

The architectural development of the city reflects the larger patterns of social and economic development. The following section, summarizing the architectural development of Ste. Genevieve has been divided into the same time periods represented by the

<sup>58</sup> Ibid..

<sup>59</sup> Ibid., 128.

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historic contexts. Period I extends from 1790 to 1850, Period II from 1851 to 1902, and Period III from 1902 to 1951. This section includes a summary of the styles and forms characteristic of each of the periods. Further examination of each property type and style is contained in the following section (Section F).

**Period I. 1790-1850.** This period includes the settlement and initial development of the community by four primary ethnic groups: the French and French Canadians, the Anglo-Americans, the Germans and the African Americans. Three of these groups are represented by specific building types and styles: the French, the Anglo-Americans and the Germans.

The French vernacular residence is the best-known building type in Ste. Genevieve. All existing examples have walls constructed of vertical logs, either mortised into a timber sill or placed directly into the ground. A variety of roof framing techniques were used, but typically, the resulting roof was two-sloped in form with the shallower outer portion sheltering galleries that extended either along the front and rear elevations of the house or along all four sides.

The Anglo-American vernacular residence reflected traditional building forms the new settlers brought with them from their former homes. Walls were constructed either of heavy timber frames or of horizontal logs. House forms used included single pen houses, double pen houses, central hall houses, and I-houses. A small number of buildings also represented vernacular adaptations of "high style" architecture. Examples of Federal and Greek Revival style buildings are present in Ste. Genevieve.

The Germans are represented by a regional tradition of vernacular architecture that has been termed "Missouri German." Identifying characteristics of the tradition include simple massing, gabled roofs, red brick walls with relatively flat surfaces and gabled parapets, dentiled brickwork cornices, and flat or segmental arches over six-over-six, double hung, sash windows.<sup>60</sup> Although most houses are brick, a small number of wood-framed dwellings are also representative of the tradition.

**Period II. 1851-1902.** In Ste. Genevieve, as in many other communities in Missouri, this era was marked by the increasing influence of the national culture as well as the introduction of nationally prominent architectural styles. With the construction of the Plank Road connecting Ste. Genevieve with the mining district to the west, Ste. Genevieve's trade and commercial contacts were increased. Though the Plank Road era was short-lived, the influence of the national culture continued and increased during the remainder of the century.

In the beginning of the period, the Missouri German architecture flourished among members of that ethnic group, a group that played important social and economic roles in the community. Missouri German houses are scattered throughout downtown Ste. Genevieve, and additional buildings representative of the tradition are found on the outskirts.

The introduction of national architectural styles was facilitated by the availability of architectural pattern books enabling local builders to incorporate elements of the currently fashionable architectural styles. The first national residential style to be widely used in Ste. Genevieve was the Italianate. Several large brick houses were built in the style. More modest I-houses and German vernacular buildings also sprouted the eaves brackets of the style. Italianate detailing was also used in the jail and county office building, two civic buildings constructed on the public square in the 1870s.

The next national style introduced in the community was the Second Empire style. As in the Italianate, where the eaves brackets could suggest the style, the mansard roof could suggest a Second Empire vocabulary without the necessity of constructing a full-blown interpretation of the style. An example of adding a Second Empire touch to an earlier building is found in the Charles Hertich House on North Main Street, a vernacular mid-nineteenth century dwelling updated with a mansard roof.

In the late nineteenth century, the irregular footprints and floor plans of the Queen Anne and Victorian vernacular swept the United States. Ste. Genevieve has few full-blown examples of the styles. Among the more elaborately executed are the stone Judge Peter Heeck House on South Fourth Street and a brick transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house at the corner of

<sup>60</sup> Debbie Sheals and Becky L. Snider, "Historic Resources of Washington, Missouri," National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1999, E-30. On file at the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City.

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Third Street and South Gabouri Street. Far more common are basically vernacular houses given Victorian character with wraparound porches and an angled first floor bay.

Commercial, institutional and industrial buildings of the period also use national architectural styles. Some of the older downtown commercial buildings, such as the Anvil Restaurant, incorporate Italianate façade details, while some later storefronts use partial or total prefabricated pressed metal facades. The three historic churches of Ste. Genevieve, homes of Catholic, Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations, employ varying interpretations of Gothic Revival and Romanesque architecture, while one of the city's early industrial buildings, the brewery, employs a Romanesque Revival vocabulary executed in brick.

Other buildings, especially smaller houses, are marked by little or no stylistic elaboration. These houses are best characterized by form. The city has many examples of I-houses ranging in construction date from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. A majority are executed in wood frame although masonry examples are also found. Two other widespread vernacular types are the gable front and wing or L-plan house and the T-plan house. Again, most of these houses are executed are wood-framed, although masonry examples are also found. Two other vernacular types, the shotgun house and the stack house, are represented by few examples in Ste. Genevieve. Those examples that are found are executed in wood frame. A final type, also represented by only a few examples, is the single-story or story-and-one-half hall and parlor plan dwelling with shed rear ell. Again, the examples of this form in Ste. Genevieve are of wood-framed construction.

**Period III. 1902-1951.** The first half of the twentieth century was a time of substantial physical, population, and economic growth of the city. The city's economy was transformed by the beginning of large-scale exploitation of the area's limestone deposits. Four lime companies were formed and each built their kilns and other facilities in close proximity to deposits and transportation. The railroad, which reached Ste. Genevieve around the turn of the century, not only facilitated the transportation of lime but also made it economical to locate other industrial enterprises in the city.

The growth of employment sources necessitated rapid construction of large numbers of houses. The predominant early twentieth century house forms in the city were the foursquare and the bungalow. The foursquare, introduced in the first decade of the twentieth century was used to construct, solid large, residences for the middle class of the community. Both wood-framed and masonry examples are found. Many examples are plain, although more elaborate examples incorporate late Victorian or Colonial Revival detailing.

The bungalow became the working class home of choice throughout much of the country. Plans and ideas were spread through books and magazine and through ready-cut dwellings produced by companies such as Aladdin and Sears. Ste. Genevieve, as other communities, has bungalows representative of numerous subtypes including gable and eaves front. Most examples have gabled roofs and are executed in wood. Smaller numbers are of masonry construction, and a few are crowned with hipped roofs.

The residential areas of Ste. Genevieve have smaller numbers of examples of other architectural styles. A few pure Colonial Revival houses are present, including one Dutch Colonial on North Second Street and the Colonial Revival Jules Petrequin mansion on Market Street. Tudor Revival dwellings are scattered throughout the community. These designs may have been taken from published sources. Semi-vernacular Cape Cod/Williamsburg style houses featuring steeply gabled roofs and a central entry bay became the preferred style for small houses in the city following the eclipse of the bungalow era. In addition, Ste. Genevieve, as many other communities in the United States, has significant numbers of astylistic Twentieth century residences. Most are small in scale, often one story, with a square or rectangular footprint. Some had facades marked by single or paired gables. These houses were generally designed to provide inexpensive housing for middle class residents.

Beginning in the immediate post-World War II-era, the first examples of ranch houses were built in the city. Among the earliest such houses is a brick dwelling on South Fifth Street. By the 1960s, the ranch and split level became the preferred house type with examples found on the outskirts of the city, on previously vacant lots in older neighborhoods, and in new subdivisions.

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Much of the twentieth century industrial, commercial and institutional architecture of Ste. Genevieve is astylistic. Most of the commercial buildings were executed in brick or brick facing over concrete block walls and employ large plate glass windows to better display goods for sale. Two governmental buildings, the post office and the former high school, use the Colonial Revival vocabulary popular for civic buildings in the 1930s, while the Ste. Genevieve Museum, erected in 1935, employs a Norman Revival architectural vocabulary.

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F. Associated Property Types

Type A: Early Vernacular Residential Architecture

Description: Early Vernacular Residential Architecture

Early vernacular residences are among the oldest buildings in the City of Ste. Genevieve. These buildings represent three ethnic traditions, each with characteristic stylistic elements. Best known are the French vertical log buildings in which the exterior walls of the dwelling were built of logs placed vertical and chinked with a variety of materials. Contemporaneous with French vertical log construction were the earliest Anglo-American vernacular dwellings. Some of these dwellings used heavy timber construction, while others were constructed of horizontal logs or masonry. As French and Anglo-American vernacular architecture began to be supplanted by the influx of national styles into Ste. Genevieve, the first buildings of the German vernacular tradition were constructed in the community. Few examples of this tradition survive, and several of those that do survive incorporate stylistic elements derived from National architectural styles.

Each of the subtypes is represented by houses and other buildings in downtown Ste. Genevieve and in the outlying areas. The best known French vernacular buildings are located within the downtown area of the city and along St. Mary's Road and have been restored as museum properties. Less well-known are French vertical log houses in the residential areas of the city, many of which have experienced substantial alterations that have obscured their French vernacular character. The majority of early Anglo-American vernacular houses are located either in downtown or in close proximity to downtown. Houses located in outlying areas include the Louis Delcommune House on LaHaye Street and the Francois Bernier horizontal log house on South Eighth Street. The majority of German vernacular houses are also located in downtown Ste. Genevieve, although examples are also found on Seraphin Street, North Main Street north of the Gabouri, and at the west end of Market Street.

Subtype: French vertical log houses

Ste. Genevieve contains the largest concentration of French vertical log houses in the United States. Some of these houses such as the Bolduc House, the Guibourd-Vallé House, the Nicolas Janis House, the Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais House, and the Jean Baptiste Bequet House, are individually significant specimens of French vernacular architecture. The Bolduc House is individually listed as a National Historic Landmark, while the Guibourd-Vallé House is individually listed in the National Register. Other less known and, in most cases, unrestored, houses in Ste. Genevieve are also examples of French vernacular construction that possess significance.

Charles Peterson, in his study of Creole St. Louis, noted the steep French hip roof and the porch or *galerie* characteristics of French residential architecture of the Mississippi Valley. He traced the genealogy of the steep roof back to Normandy:

The distinctive "*pavilion*" roof of Normandy, steep at the long sides and almost vertical at the ends, is found in the older country buildings of the province of Quebec and was brought from there to the Illinois Country. The steepness of the roof was originally dictated by the angle necessary to shed water from thatch, but the form was carried along by tradition after thatch had given way to shingles.<sup>61</sup>

The Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais (Amoureux) House retains this Norman roof framing.

The veranda, *galerie* or porch was generally employed on one or more sides of houses in the Illinois Country. The earliest temporary French dwellings in the Mississippi Valley apparently lacked galleries. As soon as permanent buildings were erected, the gallery began to appear. The earliest documented upper Mississippi Valley building with a gallery is the Cahokia Courthouse

<sup>61</sup> Charles E. Peterson, *Colonial St. Louis: Building a Creole Capital*, originally published in 1949 by the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis (Tucson: The Patrice Press, 1993), 25.

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of 1737.<sup>62</sup> Peterson quoted C.C. Robin, a traveler in Louisiana in the early nineteenth century concerning the necessity of verandas or porches:

.... the heat of the climate makes porches necessary. All houses have them--some on all sides, others on two sides only, and rarely, on only one side. The porches are formed by a prolongation of the roof with the pitch broken into two planes...These roofs are supported by little wood columns with a pleasing effect; ordinarily these porches are given a width of eight to nine feet....<sup>63</sup>

Jay Edwards explored the origins of the French veranda in an article in *Material Culture*. Edwards hypothesized that these verandas were introduced in a multi-stage process. From initial origins in the Gulf of Guinea islands in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Portuguese introduced indigenous African architecture to Brazil and Hispaniola. From these first outposts in the New World, vernacular elements spread to English and French colonies in the Caribbean. When British West Indians settled in North and South Carolina in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries and the French established cities along the Gulf Coast, the architectural forms were introduced into what became the United States. With the establishment of French settlements on the Mississippi, the architectural forms were spread into the American interior.<sup>64</sup>

In addition to the characteristic roof structure and verandas, French vernacular houses employed characteristic techniques of wall construction. These walls were constructed of vertical logs, either set directly into the earth (*poteaux en terre*) or mortised into a timber sill (*poteaux sur sole*). Peterson noted that most of the buildings in the Illinois Country used the former method of construction, but fewer examples of this type of construction have survived. He also noted that the origin of this type of construction had not been completely traced. Earlier examples were found in seventeenth century English houses on the Eastern Seaboard, as well as Spanish houses from Texas to California. Among the earliest uses of the *poteaux en terre* method of construction in the Illinois Country was a palisaded house of the Sieur de Bourgmond, built at the Fort d'Orleans on the Missouri River in 1723.<sup>65</sup>

In *poteaux en terre* construction, posts were made of cedar or white mulberry, relatively rot-resistant woods. These posts were plastered on the inside and outside surfaces and whitewashed on the outside, making the *poteaux en terre* house almost indistinguishable from a heavy wood-framed dwelling.<sup>66</sup> Between each post was a space roughly equal to its diameter. This was channeled and filled in with either stones and mortar (*pierrotée*) or set with sticks and plastered with mud and grass and straw (*bouzilée*). Peterson attributed the former method to Normandy and Canada, while the latter method came from the Louisiana Coast.<sup>67</sup>

The second major type of Creole vernacular construction was the *poteaux sur sole*. This construction, which involved fitting the vertical posts into a sill, required more sophisticated carpentry skills than did the *poteaux en terre* and also required the building of a foundation. The advantage of this method of construction was the separation of the structural timbers from the dampness of the earth, thus retarding rot. The genesis of this type of construction is found in the wood-framed houses of lower Normandy and Quebec. Manuscripts from Kaskaskia provide evidence that *poteaux sur sole* construction was used in that community as early as 1725.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>62</sup> From Otis Otsby, "French Architecture in the Mississippi Valley, 1680-1803," as quoted in Jay D. Edwards, "The Origins of the Louisiana Creole Cottage," in *French and Germans in the Mississippi Valley: Landscapes and Cultural Traditions*, ed. Michael Roark (Cape Girardeau: Southeast Missouri State University, 1988), 23.

<sup>63</sup> Peterson, *Colonial St. Louis*, 26.

<sup>64</sup> Jay Edwards, "The Complex Origins of the American Domestic Piazza-Verandah-Gallery," *Material Culture* 21, no. 2 (1989):45-48.

<sup>65</sup> Peterson, *Colonial St. Louis*, 41.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, 42.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, 44.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, 44-45.

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The construction dates of many of the French vernacular houses in Ste. Genevieve have been revised in recent years based on a tree-ring chronology (dendrochronology) project undertaken by the University of Missouri at Columbia. Core samples were taken from house timbers and analyzed by Richard Guyette.<sup>69</sup>

Early stylistic changes in Ste. Genevieve architecture reflected, in part, the changing origins of its inhabitants. When Southerners of English extraction began to arrive in the town in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, they brought with them their own building traditions. Some of these building traditions were employed by the French community in the roof structures of later vertical log houses. Luer and Francis, in their study of French houses in the Illinois Country, term these roof structures "transitional":

As the influx of American settlers increased and became more dominant in the area, it was not long before the French were adopting the new style of roof framing to their *poteaux sur solle* buildings. The double pitch, transitional roof, framed with Anglo-American truss rafters, had gable ends, and the roof extended over the front and rear porches. This became the most common method of roof framing used in the Illinois Country and Lower Louisiana.<sup>70</sup>

Other French vernacular dwellings used single pitch roofs framed with Anglo-American truss rafters. Luer and Francis note that this became the second most common methods of roof framing used in French dwellings in the Illinois Country and Lower Louisiana.<sup>71</sup>

Typically French vernacular houses in downtown Ste. Genevieve were situated close to the street at one side of a large lot, often taking up a quarter of a block. This siting permitted the remainder of the property to be used for outbuildings and gardens. The gardens were used in conjunction with the grains raised in the Common Field to provide food for the family. Outbuildings included barns, summer kitchens, and slave quarters. Few historic outbuildings remain standing. One exception is brick barn of the Guibourd-Vallé House on Fourth Street. This outbuilding was converted to a guest house. A summer kitchen in back of the Bolduc House is a 1950s recreation.

Another early area of settlement and location of French vernacular houses is along St. Mary's Road. This road extended along the west boundary of the Common Field and permitted the *habitant* to live in close proximity to his cropland. By the early nineteenth century, most of the land along St. Mary's Road and in downtown Ste. Genevieve had been acquired and built on. Therefore, later French vernacular residences were constructed on the outskirts of town, especially in the higher elevations north of the Gabouri. or along the Gabouri Creek west of downtown. The northern portion of the city probably boasted a slightly more temperate climate due to its higher elevation, while the area west of downtown had ready access to water. Among the French vernacular houses north of downtown are the Caron houses on Roberts Street, the Jean Marie Pepin dit Lachance House on North Fourth Street, the Beauchamp House on LaHaye Street, and the LaHaye House on LaPorte Street. French vernacular houses located west of downtown include the Antoine Lalumondière House on South Gabouri Street, the Boyer Cabin on Boyer Place, and the Thomure Cabin on South Gabouri Street.

In general, the French vernacular houses located in downtown Ste. Genevieve and along St. Mary's Road are the best preserved or restored examples in the city. Most of these dwellings are no longer in residential use and are open as museums. Located in areas frequented by tourists, it is these houses including the Bolduc and Guibourd-Vallé, that give visitors to Ste. Genevieve their exposure to French vernacular architecture. Elsewhere, a few houses have been restored to emphasize their French character, or in the case of the Antoine Lalumondière House have never been substantially altered. Larger numbers have been altered in

<sup>69</sup> Richard Guyette, "Tree Ring Dating of French Colonial Vertical Log Houses in St. Genevieve, Missouri," n.d. Other sources by Guyette on tree ring dating of Ste. Genevieve buildings are cited in the bibliography.

<sup>70</sup> Luer and Francis, *Vanishing French Heritage: French Illinois Country* (Ste. Genevieve, Missouri: Charles E. Peterson Institute, 2001), 37.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, 40.



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continued domestic use, and their French vernacular construction is apparent only after the exterior or interior sheathing is removed.

**Subtype: Anglo-American heavy timber-frame, horizontal log, brick and stone buildings.**

Anglo-American settlers continued to build dwellings that used construction practices with which they were familiar from their former homes in the southeastern United States. Instead of houses built with vertical logs, these settlers brought with them a tradition of houses constructed of either horizontal logs or heavy timber frames. Fred Kniffen and Henry Glassie noted in their study of wood construction in the eastern United States that "to the extent that wood was used in the English and Dutch seaboard colonies, framing was almost the sole method of construction."<sup>72</sup> James M. Denny, in his study of the introduction of Anglo-American architecture into Missouri, cites the cultural origins of these early Anglo-American dwellings:

Migrants who made their way to the Missouri Territory from culture hearths in the "old states" of Virginia, Maryland, or North Carolina, or from Kentucky and Tennessee, carried with them the unfolding traditions of their homeplaces in the Upper South. They perpetuated the distinctive regional architecture of the Old South in a way that completely reflected the deep and complex origins. An examination of floor plans and decoration of early Missouri-houses...illustrates that the process of accommodation between tradition and modernity on the western fringes of Southern civilization was similar to that in the Old South.<sup>73</sup>

The earliest Anglo-American folk houses in Missouri were of five basic types: 1) single pen houses, 2) double pen houses, including the hall and parlor and saddlebag subtypes, 3) central hall houses, including the dogtrot subtype, 4) stack houses, and 5) I-houses.<sup>74</sup> All of these types with the exception of stack houses are represented in the early to mid-nineteenth century Anglo-American vernacular houses of Ste. Genevieve.

The simplest of these Anglo-American house forms, the one-room or single pen dwelling, was a concept transferred across the Atlantic from Great Britain and Europe. During the American colonial era and the western frontier period, one-room deep dwellings were constructed of a variety of materials including logs, sawn lumber, brick and stone. Examples of the single pen house include the log Louis Delcommune House and the Francois Bernier horizontal log house.

The double pen house represented an elaboration of the single pen house with the addition of a second room, often unequal in size. This form, common in early Virginia and North and South Carolina, was carried into the Midwestern states by early nineteenth century settlers. Examples of double pen houses include the John Birke Stone House on North Third Street, constructed of unfinished stone; the finished limestone Henry Keil Stone House on South Second Street; and the wood-framed Francois Morel Aubuchon House on Washington Street and Walter Fenwick House on Merchant Street.

The central hall house, as the name implies, incorporates a central passageway flanked by a hall and parlor. An example of a central hall plan house is the Antoine O'Neill House at 150 South Main Street, a one-and-one-half story, wood-framed dwelling with a recessed front porch.

The accommodation to modernity in Anglo-American architecture in Missouri occurred with the introduction of symmetrical central hall plan designs in domestic architecture. Few of these early houses were full four-room, double-pile Georgian plan dwellings. In Missouri, as much of the south, the single-pile I-house plan began to predominate:

<sup>72</sup> Fred B. Kniffen and Henry Glassie, "Building in Wood in the Eastern United States: A Time Place Perspective," In *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, edited by John Michael Vlach (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 161.

<sup>73</sup> James M. Denny, "Early Southern Domestic Architecture in Missouri, 1810-1840: The "Georgianization" of the trans-Mississippi West," *Pioneer America Society Transactions* 8 (1985), 13.

<sup>74</sup>

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Missouri Southerners followed suit with the rest of the South in adopting, by the beginning of the nineteenth century, the central passage I-house as the predominant expression of the Georgian ideal as modified to conform to Southern tastes.... I-houses, although raised to a full two stories, retained the single-pile depth that Southerners favored. These I-houses had central halls dominated by cramped open staircases of Georgian derivation. Additional rooms were generally placed in rear ells.<sup>75</sup>

Examples of early Ste. Genevieve I-houses include the Simon Hubardeau House, a limestone dwelling at 102 North Fourth Street, believed to have been constructed about 1817; the Aaron Elliott House, a wood-frame dwelling at 207 South Main Street, whose original block dates to between 1806 and 1812; the John McArthur House at 198 South Main Street, a wood-framed dwelling built in about 1809; and the original portion of the Abraham Newfield House, a c. 1806 wood-framed residence at 223 Merchant Street. The Ste. Genevieve I-house is notable in that examples survive in brick, wood and stone.

In addition to presently freestanding residences, early Anglo-American vernacular architecture is also represented by early buildings that now function as ells to larger buildings of more recent construction. Examples include the rear, wood-framed ell of the Joseph Bogy House on Merchant Street, believed to have been erected in about 1810; the brick ell of the Steiger Haus, bed-and-breakfast, also on Merchant Street, believed to have been erected in about 1810; and the wood-framed ell of the Jean Baptiste Bossier House, believed to have been erected in about 1818.

As with French vernacular houses, most of the earliest Anglo-American dwellings were constructed in close proximity to downtown Ste. Genevieve. Early in its history, this section of the community had been laid out into town lots, while subdivision of outlying areas occurred later. These downtown lots were also located in proximity to fields, village services, and the Mississippi riverfront. As with French vernacular houses in the central portion of Ste. Genevieve, these housing were generally placed in close proximity to the street to permit agricultural use of the remainder of the property. Smaller numbers of early Anglo-American dwellings are placed either in proximity to the water supply of the Gabouri or on the hills north of downtown Ste. Genevieve.

The condition and integrity level of Anglo-American vernacular buildings vary. A few have been recently restored to approximate their original appearance. More have remained in residential use. As a result, these buildings have been altered with additions, changing of doors and windows, replacement or alterations of porches, and sheathing in modern siding materials. The least altered early vernacular Anglo-American residence in Ste. Genevieve is the c. 1809 John McArthur House located at the intersection of South Main Street and South Gabouri Street. The house has been only sporadically maintained and is deteriorating.

**Subtype: German brick and wood buildings**

With the influx of substantial numbers of Germans into Ste. Genevieve beginning in the 1840s came the introduction of Germanic designs and construction techniques to the community. These early German buildings were generally of brick construction and were among the early examples of the use of this building material in Ste. Genevieve. Charles van Ravenswaay, in his treatise on German art and architecture in Missouri, cited characteristics common to most early German brick buildings in the state:

Very few of the brick buildings in German towns have a self-conscious or designed look about them but, instead, were built in what might be called a Missouri-German vernacular style. This local building tradition (related to what German builders constructed in other parts of the United States) had its origins in the various German states from which the builders and their clients had emigrated and which they adapted to the needs of their new situation in Missouri....

<sup>75</sup> Ibid., 20.

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In the detailing of these buildings, local designs and building techniques are particularly evident. In each of the towns brick was used to form decorative cornices, many of them individual in design, as though masons took delight in creating new patterns....<sup>76</sup>

Other characteristics cited by van Ravenswaay include rectangular or L-shaped houses, brick arches above doors and windows, and an individual architectural character of each town.<sup>77</sup> By the 1860s, windows of six over six lights were standard. Ornamentation included brick arches, stone or wooden lintels, and classically inspired doorways with glazed transoms.

Most of the German houses in Ste. Genevieve are either located downtown or in close proximity to the original town grid. The German residences of Ste. Genevieve can be subdivided into several categories. The most numerous are single story, brick, three-bay, gabled roof buildings often with a rear ell. The interior has a two-room plan. Surviving examples of this type include the Pierre Schumert House at 73 North Main Street (c. 1849-1851), the Firman Rozier House at 124 Merchant Street (c. 1850), the John Hael House at 159 North Main Street (c. 1860), and the Marvin Intress House at 52 North Third Street (c. 1842-1846).

The least altered of these early German houses is the Martin Intress House. The original house was a simple one-story, rectangular brick building. A brick rear ell was added later in the nineteenth century. The parapet gables are characteristic of German houses. The brick door lintel features a central pieced key. The building is presently vacant. Its roof is leaking, and the interior has suffered plaster damage. Beaded interior door and window trim mark the house as belonging to the German tradition.

A second German building type is the two-story, side gabled, row house with double entrance. Two adjacent houses, the Christian Leucke House at 341 North Main Street (c. 1865) and the Wendolin Obermiller House (c. 1850) at 387 North Main Street. The brick Leucke House has parapet gables, double entrance, and two room front and back plan. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double hung, sash windows with heavy limestone sills and lintels. The Obermiller House, of heavy timber frame construction, also has a four bay façade with paired front doors.

Other examples of German vernacular residences of Ste. Genevieve include the Charles Jokerst House and Shop (c. 1850) at 745 North Main Street, the Fidel Hettig (Hettig-Nauman) House (c. 1858) at 299 Seraphin Street, and the Augustus Gisl-house (c. 1860) at the west end of Market Street. The Jokerst House has the characteristic parapeted gables and beaded interior trim of Missouri German houses. Originally, its façade was four bays wide with two exterior entrances. When a shop was added, the building was lengthened by eighteen feet. The façade of the original block was also altered, and the doors replaced by windows. The Hettig House is a two-story, three bay, side-gabled brick residence with added side wing, while the Gisl-house is a one story, four bay, brick house with shed-roofed front porch. The front door, set off-center on the façade, is surmounted by a transom. These latter two residences are atypical of German residences in the city but retain the brick construction and interior woodwork typical of Missouri German architecture.

Although Germans came to Ste. Genevieve in large enough numbers to form a majority of the population during the second half of the nineteenth century, few extant buildings are German vernacular in style. A major reason was the emergence of popular national architectural styles in the second half of the century. Even those surviving German vernacular houses show the influence of then-popular architectural styles. For example, the Pierre Schumert House at 73 North Main Street shows the influence of the Greek Revival style in its transom and lintels while the John Hael House sports paired Italianate brackets.

A majority of the extant Missouri German houses in Ste. Genevieve are located within or close to downtown. Indicative of their owner's roles as merchants or shopkeepers, several of these houses were located in the heart of the commercial district. Similar to other buildings in the commercial district, the brick dwellings were located adjacent to the street. Unlike early French

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<sup>76</sup> Charles van Ravenswaay, *The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1977), 225, 227.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid., 226, 229, 241.

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vernacular buildings, these houses were not set on large tracts of land. Most German vernacular houses retain a significant percentage of original or historic fabric. The most common alteration has been replacement of original windows with either larger lights or display windows.

### Significance: Early Vernacular Residences

Intact early vernacular residences in Ste. Genevieve will be significant under National Register Criterion C, in the area ARCHITECTURE. Those which display elements of the French vernacular and German vernacular styles will also be eligible under Criterion A, in the area of ETHNIC HERITAGE.

Each of the indicated subtypes of early vernacular residences possesses architectural characteristics that provide the buildings with significance. French vernacular dwellings are significant primarily due to their use of materials. Specifically, a French vernacular dwelling is defined by vertical log construction, using vertical logs mortised into a sill, or more rarely, placed directly into the ground. Well-preserved examples of French vernacular houses incorporate original or early timber roof framing. Typically, this framing supports a two-slope roof with the shallower outer slope sheltering galleries extending along one, two or four sides of the house. Because of the rarity of this property type, the presence of vertical log walls alone is sufficient for a property of this subtype to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The majority of Anglo-American vernacular houses in Ste. Genevieve are of heavy timber construction, although horizontal log and masonry examples are also present. Structural systems provide these residences with significance. Masonry construction, either brick or limestone, represents early use of these materials in Missouri, and thus provides the building with significance. Timber framing and log construction techniques represent the transfer of house construction practices of the American South to the western frontier and also provide significance. The survival of original house forms also gives a property significance. Early vernacular architecture of Missouri uses several basic house forms, delineated above. If one of these forms and its requisite interior spatial arrangement is present, the property possesses significance.

Several early nineteenth century Anglo-American buildings are presently attached to buildings of more recent construction. If the earlier building is clearly discernable as of early nineteenth century construction and retains original fabric from that period, it possesses significance as an early Anglo-American building. If the building presently "reads" as a part of the later building, its significance must be assessed under the property type of the later building.

The characteristics of Missouri German architecture have been delineated in Charles van Ravenswaay's standard work, *The Art and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri*. Among these characteristics are the predominance of brick as a construction material, the use of simple rectangular house forms, often three or four bays wide, the use of single or double doors with transoms, parapeted gable ends, original six-over-six windows, brick flat-arched windows, and beaded interior woodwork. Residences that display the basic characteristics of the Missouri German style as specified by van Ravenswaay possess significance under Criterion C.

As noted, French vernacular and Missouri German houses also are significant under Criterion A in the area of ethnic heritage. The surviving French vernacular buildings not only are tangible evidence of the early French settlement of Ste. Genevieve but the transformation or "Americanization" of the French culture. As Luer and Francis have noted in their book on the architecture of the Illinois Country, French construction practices were modified in response to the influences of the changing community, and later dwellings represent a blending of French and Anglo-American construction practices. Missouri German houses in Ste. Genevieve provide tangible evidence of the transformation of the community that occurred with the substantial influx of German immigrants beginning in the 1840s. These houses also display the results of cultural influences on these recent immigrants. Few German houses are "pure" Missouri German. Instead, these houses possess additional significance under Criterion A for the mixing of German vernacular architecture with elements of national styles.

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### Registration Requirements: Early Vernacular Residences

To qualify for listing in the National Register, an early vernacular residence must be a good representative of an above property subtype, and exhibit sufficient integrity to be readily attributable to their period of significance. Critical aspects of integrity include design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. A change in location does not specifically preclude eligibility, if the new location is similar in character to its historic site. Buildings that meet these requirements will be eligible under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE, with a period of significance corresponding to the original construction date and/or the period in which the building took its present form. For example, a building erected in 1820 which received a significant addition in 1890 would have a period of significance of c. 1820-1890.

This group includes the oldest buildings remaining in Ste. Genevieve. As a result, it would be expected that they will have undergone varying degrees of alterations during their century-and-one-half or more of continuous use. Typical alterations include construction of additions, replacement of windows and doors, updating of interiors, and changes to the roofline and roof surface. The cumulative effect of all these changes must be assessed when determining potential eligibility.

Numerous French vernacular houses have undergone major changes including removal and replacement of the roof, construction of additions, replacement of windows and doors, and reduction or expansion in size. As a result of these changes, some of these houses are identifiable as French vernacular dwellings only by removing exterior or interior wall cladding to view the vertical log construction. Because of the unquestioned significance of this construction technique and the rarity of surviving examples, any French vernacular building that retains its characteristic vertical log walls is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

A more strict standard must be applied to Anglo-American vernacular dwellings. To be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, an Anglo-American vernacular dwelling must retain evidence of its original floor plan and must retain its original structural system. Often, windows and doors have been replaced, porches reconstructed, new sheathing applied and additions constructed. If such alterations were made prior to 1951, they represent part of the historic evolution of the property and do not compromise its integrity. Recent additions are acceptable providing that they do not alter the principal elevation of the house and are not larger in scale than the original portion of the house. Replacement of doors and windows is acceptable if the replacements are greater than fifty years of age or are extremely close to the originals in dimensions and configurations. Porches, if rebuilt, should echo the style, proportions, and materials of historic porches. Cement-asbestos siding can now be considered a historic siding material if applied prior to 1951. Modern siding materials, such as aluminum or vinyl are twentieth century products and alter the exterior character of historic buildings. Early vernacular buildings sheathed in modern siding materials are presently precluded from National Register eligibility. Such buildings may be individually eligible if this modern siding is removed and intact historic exterior fabric is revealed. To summarize, if the historic character of the house is still largely present, it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

German vernacular dwellings are defined by massing, exterior materials, window and door placement, and exterior and interior decorative elements. Most or all of the Missouri German houses in Ste. Genevieve retain these diagnostic elements. The major alteration found on Missouri German buildings has been replacement of original double hung windows with display windows to make the building suitable for commercial use. These changes have been made prior to 1951 and represent part of the historic evolution of the building. If the house retains the basic elements of Missouri German architectural design as cited by van Ravenswaay, it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Property Type B: Neoclassical Styles**

#### Description: Neoclassical Styles

The Neoclassical movement developed in Europe in the mid-eighteenth century and began to make an impact on American design after the end of the Revolutionary War. The Neoclassical was rooted in Classical orders and concepts of proportion and decoration. The architecture was based on modern perceptions of the buildings of ancient Greece and Rome.

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Interest in the design principles of the two cultures coincided with the major archeological excavations begun at Herculaneum in 1783 and Pompeii in 1793. The architecture of the ancient world was also conveyed in a series of illustrated books, most notably James Stuart and Nicholas Revett's four-volume *Antiquities of Athens*, published between 1762 and 1816.

In the United States, Neoclassicism evolved into several distinct styles including Federal and Greek Revival. The Federal style, based on Roman prototypes, lasted from the 1780s to the 1820s, and the Greek Revival, based on Greek prototypes, extended from about 1820 to 1850.<sup>78</sup> Federal and Greek Revival architecture was translated to a decorative language accessible to the local carpenter-builder through pattern books such as Asher Benjamin's *American Builder's Companion* and *Practical House Carpenter*.

Buildings incorporating Neoclassical styling represent the earliest influences of national architectural styles in Ste. Genevieve. Most of the buildings constructed in these styles were residences; some have subsequently been converted to commercial use. One, the Academy, was initially constructed as a school and has recently been converted to a residence. Neoclassical buildings in Ste. Genevieve are generally constructed of masonry, either limestone or brick. Most are located within central area of Ste. Genevieve, although one, the Millard-Vallé House, is located at the north end of North Main Street. Neoclassical buildings in Ste. Genevieve have simple massing and symmetrical facades.

In all cases, Neoclassical buildings in Ste. Genevieve are vernacular interpretations of their styles with limited embellishments. Characteristics of Ste. Genevieve examples include symmetrical fenestration, stone sills and lintels, and simplified classical door surrounds. The two subtypes in Ste. Genevieve may be based upon pattern book interpretations of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. In neither case can the Ste. Genevieve examples be termed "high style" such as are present in many Eastern examples.

### Subtype: Federal Style Dwellings

The earliest Ste. Genevieve Anglo-American houses to incorporate stylistic elements were those that incorporated the general characteristics of the Federal style. Federal style buildings are characterized by a symmetrical façade, often five bays wide; windows with six-over-six, 12-over-12, nine-over-six, or 12-over-8 double hung sashes with thin wooden muntins; and a cornice ornamented with decorative moldings, most commonly dentils. None of these houses include high style Federal element such as elaborate door surrounds, porticos, fanlights, swags or Palladian windows.

Examples of Federal houses in Ste. Genevieve include the stone Millard-Vallé House on North Main Street, the brick John Price House on South Third Street, the stone Jacob Philipson House on Merchant Street, the stone Academy on North Fifth Street, and the brick John Donahue House on South Third Street.

### Subtype: Greek Revival

Modeled on English precedents, the Greek Revival style was imported to America and spread rapidly through the eastern part of the country. High style Greek Revival houses are generally concentrated in the northeastern United States, particularly in a band of upstate New York north and south of the Erie Canal. Among the key characteristics of Greek Revival architecture are a low-pitched, front gable roof, wide entablature boards beneath the eaves, small paned windows, a door surround containing a rectangular transom and narrow sidelights, and a portico or recessed porch supported by Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian columns.<sup>79</sup> Doors and windows are generally located in trabeated surrounds.

<sup>78</sup> Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1997), 90.

<sup>79</sup> John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian and Douglas K. Meyer, *Common Houses in America's Small Towns* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1989), 95.

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The stylistic influence of the Greek Revival filtered down to vernacular architecture. For example, high style houses frequently featured a columned portico supporting a triangular pediment reminiscent of a Greek temple. Carpenter builders accomplished the same effect by turning the gable end toward the street, boxing in the gable with a raking cornice, and adding pilasters at the corners.<sup>80</sup>

Examples of Greek Revival houses in Ste. Genevieve include the Joseph Amoureux House on South Main Street, the Augustus Bequette House on North Second Street, and the Gregoire House on South Fourth Street. All constructed of brick, the Amoureux House and Gregoire House are both side hall plan dwellings, while the Bequette House has a central hall plan with paired front doors.

In addition to Greek Revival style dwellings, several other dwellings employ Greek Revival decorative elements. These include door surrounds of several of the Missouri German dwellings and replacement interior woodwork in several French vernacular dwellings.

### Significance: Neoclassical Styles

Intact Neoclassical buildings in Ste. Genevieve will be significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Because this architecture represents the vernacular interpretation of national architectural styles and points to the transformation of the community from a relatively insular French-dominated one to a community open to influences from a larger national culture, Neoclassical buildings are also significant under Criterion A. Specific buildings, such as the John Donahue House and the Academy possess individual significance under Criterion C. The Donahue House is significant as an early hotel in the community, while the Academy is significant as one of the early schools built west of the Mississippi River.

Because of the small numbers of Neoclassical dwellings in Ste. Genevieve those that exist are potentially significant under Criterion C for their architecture. As noted, these dwellings are of masonry construction. One, the John Price House may be individually significant as among the earliest brick buildings west of the Mississippi River. Together, these buildings possess significance as vernacular versions of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. All of the buildings employ the simple massing, symmetrical fenestration, the stone sills and lintels, and the classically influenced door surrounds diagnostic of vernacular examples.

### Registration Requirements: Neoclassical Styles

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, these buildings must be good representatives of the above property subtypes and exhibit sufficient integrity to be readily associated with their period of significance. Critical aspects of integrity include design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The moving of a building does not necessarily preclude eligibility providing its new setting is similar in character to its historic location. Moved buildings must meet National Register Criteria Consideration B and possess significance primarily for architectural value or be the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event. Because most of these buildings are located in the midst of evolving sections of the city, it is to be expected that changes have occurred to the historic setting of these buildings.

Buildings which meet these requirements will be eligible under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE, with a period of significance corresponding to the construction date or the building or the period in which the building acquired its present form. Buildings, such as the Southern Hotel, which had a commercial function during the period of significance, will also be eligible under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE, with a period of significance which corresponds to the period of time in which they had the historic commercial function.

<sup>80</sup> Carley, *The Visual Dictionary*, 100.

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Because these buildings were constructed over 150 years ago and most have remained in continuous or nearly continuous use, it is expected that they will have undergone alterations to accommodate continued and changing use. Various kinds of alterations are expected, and it is important to evaluate the overall effect of changes made to determine eligibility. Window replacement is expected. Unless the windows were replaced less than 50 years ago with new sashes out of character with the building's historic appearance, these window replacements are acceptable. Bricked-in openings are permissible, as long as a majority of the historic openings remain. Painted exterior brick walls are acceptable, because there is historical precedent for the practice. Porch additions are acceptable if they do not obscure the character defining elements of the façade. Additions are permissible, such as those to the rear of the Price Brick House, as long as the scale is in keeping with that of the original building. Modern siding, such as vinyl, aluminum or cement-asbestos, is a product of the twentieth century. Buildings which have been sided with these modern materials no longer reflect the exterior appearance of their period of significance and are not individually eligible for the National Register.

A lesser degree of integrity is necessary for a Neoclassical building to be a contributing building in a historic district. To be contributing, the exterior appearance of the building must reflect the period of significance of the historic district.

### Property Type C: Romantic Style Residences

#### Description: Romantic Style Residences

The Victorian era, which extended from the 1830s to the early 1900s, was a time of romanticism in domestic architecture of the United States. Texture, color and asymmetry replaced the geometry and balance of the Neoclassical styles. A broad range of unconventional and complex styles emerged.

Early Romantic styles, including the Italianate, were reflections of the Picturesque, an artistic movement that celebrated the variety, texture and irregularity of nature. As a result, their designers had a strong interest in the relationship of the building to its setting. Loggias, verandas and towers proliferated to take advantage of views and fresh air. Asymmetrical floor plans complemented the site and yielded unusually shaped rooms. Later Romantic styles such as the Second Empire and Queen Anne, were attempts by American architects to interpret and embellish European influences. Romantic house designs were spread throughout the country through increasing numbers of pattern books.

A majority of later nineteenth and early twentieth century residences in Ste. Genevieve can be classified as vernacular expressions of national Romantic architectural styles. The oldest of these houses are Italianate.

#### Subtype: Italianate

The Italianate style was the first of the Romantic national styles to take hold in Ste. Genevieve. Nationally, in the decade prior to the Civil War, Italian styles were becoming increasingly popular in the United States, surpassing the Gothic Revival style and challenging the popularity of the Greek Revival. Italian style houses could be divided into three basic categories: the villa, Renaissance Revival, and Italianate. The latter, the most common manifestation of the Italian styles was the only one used in Ste. Genevieve.

The large majority of Italianate houses were not custom-designed high style residences. Instead, many of builders derived the plans from Italian-inspired plans published in one of many pattern books of the period. Even more commonly, builders started with a familiar house shape, such as the I-house or L-plan, and added a few fashionable Italian details.

Massey and Maxwell describe the typical characteristics of the Italianate dwelling:

Italianate houses were made of any available material, from brownstone to brick to wood. Often, though, the materials were used in a way that would mimic the stone of their Italian Villa and palazzo models. Exterior surfaced were usually flat....



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As a rule, Italianate windows were large, using double-hung sash set one-over-one. Bay windows and oriel windows were common, so were windows with round-arch tops. Windows were almost always shielded by flat-topped, rounded, or pedimented-shaped hoods; or they were framed with wide, flat, scrolled trim.

Porches were a nearly universal feature of the Italianate house, especially small entrance porches. Larger one-story porches, called verandahs or piazzas, became popular as the century progressed. The porch was always a major focal point of the facade.... Porch supports, most often square with chamfered edges, appear frequently in pairs. Bracketed tops rather than column capitals are also distinctive to the style.<sup>81</sup>

The popularity of the Italian styles began to wane in the 1880s with the emergence of new architectural styles that took fuller advantage of mill-produced decorative woodwork.

Several examples of brick Italianate dwellings are found in the district. Among them are the Jesse B. Robbins House at 199 Merchant Street, the Leon Yealy House at Fourth and Jefferson Street, and two adjoining similar houses at 152 and 176 North Second Street. Numerous other vernacular I-houses have been elaborated with Italianate brackets. Among these are the wood-framed Joseph Bogy House on Merchant Street and the brick and stone Valentine Rottler House at 501 North Third Street, both I-houses. All Ste. Genevieve examples lack the elaborate loggia and molded window hoods of high-style Italianate dwellings.

Subtype: Second Empire

The Second Empire style took its inspiration from the buildings of Paris whose appearance had been dramatically overhauled during the reign of Napoleon III. His reign, termed the "Second Empire" lasted from 1852 to 1870. Two Paris expositions in 1855 and 1867 attracted attention to the style which first found its American expression in public and civic buildings erected in the 1850s.<sup>82</sup>

Second Empire became a dominant style for American houses constructed between 1860 and 1880. The style is characterized principally by its distinctive mansard roof. Beneath the roof line, Second Empire houses generally have details that are similar to those of the closely related Italianate style. Many have Italianate brackets at the cornice lines and also have molded window surrounds with flat-topped, rounded, or pedimented shaped hoods. Unelaborated arched windows are also common on Italianate dwellings.<sup>83</sup> Often, the characteristic mansard roof was added to vernacular buildings to update them.

Examples of Second Empire style dwellings in Ste. Genevieve include three Main Street buildings, the Bertha Doerge House, the Charles Hertich House and the Main Street Inn (originally, the Meyer's Hotel). In the case of the Hertich, the mansard roof was added as part of a remodeling and enlargement of an earlier vernacular building. As with the Italianate, the Second Empire examples in Ste. Genevieve are basically vernacular houses in which the mansard roof has been added as a decorative element. These houses lack the ornamentation and sophistication of high style examples.

Subtype: Queen Anne/Victorian Vernacular

Late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular designs were transformed by the construction of houses with irregular massing. As Jakle, Bastian and Meyer wrote, "Irregular massing symbolized modernity, a breaking away from the formal

<sup>81</sup> James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *Home Styles in America: the Old-House Journal Guide to the Architecture of America* (New York: Penguin Studio, 1996), 93, 95.

<sup>82</sup> Carley, *The Visual Dictionary*, 148.

<sup>83</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992), 241-242.

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symmetry of traditional dwellings."<sup>84</sup> Such irregular plan houses emphasized openness between exterior and interior. Bay windows with large panes of glass let in sunlight and fresh air and offered a pleasant view. A broad rambling porch offered additional connection between the inside and outside during the warmer weather.

Rooms, especially on the first floor, were open to one another with circulation aided by broad arches, sliding doors and connecting hallways. Dwellings were organized into three distinct types of spaces: 1) formal spaces for public viewing including the formal parlor and dining room, 2) utility spaces for domestic service (the kitchen), and 3) private spaces. The formal spaces flowed together and connected with the outdoors.

Irregular massing coincided with two significant technological developments in home construction. Cast iron stoves permitted the wider use of longer, less regular floor plans. Central heating reduced further the need to arrange room symmetrically relative to chimney stacks. Balloon framing was the second technological breakthrough. Secure corners in balloon framing were readily constructed of light boards and wire nails. This freed domestic architecture from the geometric limitations imposed upon it by heavy timber framing or masonry walls.<sup>85</sup>

Queen Anne designs reached their height of popularity in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Basic decorative elements of the style include steeply pitched, multi-planed roofs; round towers with conical roofs or polygonal turrets with tent roofs; projecting dormers with fishscale shingles beneath the dormers; and large, often wraparound, porches with decorative woodwork.<sup>86</sup>

Massey and Maxwell describe the characteristics of the Queen Anne house:

They emphasized vertical lines with plenty of steep gables, and they had very few boring, flat wall surfaces. There were angles everywhere, alternately catching and absorbing light. Towers and bays projected, verandahs and niches receded, chimneys surged skyward. Up, down, and across the building, the walls were fairly alive with changes in material—brick, stone, stucco, shingles, tiles, wood siding, clear and stained glass—and color.<sup>87</sup>

The district contains few examples of full-blown Queen Anne architecture. Among the more elaborate examples are the wood-framed house at 199 South Third Street with its tower with oval oculus, and the stone Judge Peter Heeck House on South Fourth Street. More common are Builder's Queen Anne dwellings in which decorative elements such as spindlework, imbricated gables, and vergeboards are pasted onto simple house forms. A diagnostic element of Ste. Genevieve vernacular Victorian houses is the cutting away of the first story corners of a gable front block to form an angled three-sided bay.

Significance: Romantic Style Residences

Romantic style residences exemplify the growth and increasing prosperity of Ste. Genevieve during the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. Intact Romantic styles residences in Ste. Genevieve will be significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE.

Because Romantic styles were nationally styles, many examples of these houses exist throughout much of the United States. Some high style examples were designed by architects. Many more were copied or adapted from pattern books. Vernacular examples, such as the characteristic Ste. Genevieve Builder's Queen Anne with the cut first story corners on first story bays abound. A vernacular house type could be brought up to date with the installation of prefabricated eaves brackets or the appending of a wraparound porch with spindlework to a simple L-plan dwelling.

<sup>84</sup> Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer, *Common Houses*, 154.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*, 156.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*, 96.

<sup>87</sup> Massey and Maxwell, *Home Styles in America*, 130-131.

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To possess significance under Criterion C, a property must embody the distinctive characteristics of a type or period of construction. Those Romantic examples that embody these characteristics are the most elaborate manifestations of the style. For example, the brick Jesse B. Robbins House with its hipped roof, corner stoop, large two-over-two arched windows, stone sills, and segmental arched lintels embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Italianate style. Similarly, the adjoining houses at 152 and 176 North Second Street also embody these characteristics. A simple I-house whose eaves are marked by paired or single brackets does not.

As noted, many Builder's Queen Anne houses exist in Ste. Genevieve, and in many cases are discernable only by the use of the angled three-sided first story bay. These cannot be considered to embody the distinctive characteristics of a period of construction. On the other hand, houses such as the wood-framed 246 Jefferson Street with its imbricated gable peaks, cut first story bay, and two story porch; and 406 North Third Street with its corner tower, bay windows, and wraparound porch, convey sufficient stylistic elements to embody the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style.

Second Empire houses are uncommon in Ste. Genevieve. As noted, the diagnostic element of the Second Empire is the mansard roof. The three Second Empire houses on North Main Street each retain the mansard roof as well as additional architectural detailing such as wall dormers, eaves brackets, and in the case of the Main Street Inn and Bertha Doerge House, segmental arches window and door surrounds. These three houses each embody the distinctive characteristics of the Second Empire style.

### Registration Requirements: Romantic Style Residences

To qualify for listing in the National Register, these buildings must be good representative of one of the above property subtypes and display sufficient integrity to be clearly associated with their period of significance. Retention of integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, and association is critical to eligibility. Buildings may have been moved, providing that the new site is similar in character to its existing location. Changes in setting are expected giving the evolution of the city and do not preclude eligibility.

Buildings which meet these requirements will be eligible under Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE, with a period of significance which corresponds to the building construction date and/or the period in which the building acquired its present form. For example, a building built in about 1860 which received a major addition in 1880 would have a period of significance of c. 1860-1880. Buildings which had commercial functions during the period of significance will also be eligible under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE.

Potential alterations are of several types. First, some buildings, such as the Charles Hertich House, may have been updated during their period of significance to reflect a then fashionable architectural style. Such alterations clearly are acceptable. Other alterations are more in the character of recent modernization. Such alterations may include replacement of windows and doors, replacement or removal of porches, sheathing in modern materials, and construction of additions. Window and door replacement, in which the pattern of windows and doors is retained, the number of lights in each window are the same, and no change has occurred in the type of window, are acceptable. Replacement of double hung windows with fixed windows or casement windows on a major elevation is not acceptable. Porch removal, especially in cases where porches are major stylistic elements are unacceptable. Replacement or rebuilding of porches is acceptable providing the porch details relate to the period of the house or a compatible later historic period. Additions are acceptable providing that they do not obscure a primary elevation and are in scale with the original block of the house. Cladding in modern siding materials such as vinyl, aluminum or cement-asbestos, precludes individual National Register eligibility because such materials dramatically alter the exterior appearance of the building. Such buildings may become eligible for the National Register if modern siding materials are removed and the historic building cladding is intact beneath.

While less elaborate examples of Romantic styles may not be individually eligible for the National Register, these houses are expected to eligible as resources in larger historic districts. To be eligible as a contributing resource of a district, a lesser degree

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of integrity is required. Changes may have been made to the exterior including sheathing in synthetic siding, replacement of windows, and alterations to the porch. To be eligible as a contributing resource a property must retain elements diagnostic of its style and convey strong associations with the period of significance of the district.

### Property Type D: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Vernacular Buildings

#### Description: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Vernacular Buildings

In addition to buildings that exhibit the characteristics of architectural styles, Ste. Genevieve, as most communities, has many houses that can be better defined by form. These forms include the gable front and wing or upright and wing, the I-house, the T-plan, the foursquare, the shotgun house, the hall and parlor, and the stack house. Two of these house forms became nationally popular in the post-Civil War era, the vernacular I-house and the tri-gable ell.<sup>88</sup> A third, the foursquare became one of the most popular house forms in the early twentieth century United States.

#### Subtype: I-house

The I-house is one of the most common traditional house forms in the eastern and Midwestern United States. The I-house is basically a hall and parlor house with an added central hall serving a centrally positioned door. The form is one room deep with single rooms on either side of the hallway. It has two full stories with a gable roof. Typically, examples were either three or five bays wide.

Originating in the east in the early nineteenth century, the form spread westward into the Trans-Appalachian interior. Jakle, Bastian and Meyer wrote of the influence of the I-house in the Midwest:

The I-house symbolized prosperity and respectability both among farmers and among businessmen and professionals in the villages and towns. The rise of commercial agriculture associated with the development of regional railroad networks first accounted for the growing affluence. The strength of the I-house as an icon of success was especially strong among Kentuckians and Tennesseans who carried the form into the Lower Middle West. The I-house mirrored both folk and popular culture as it was picked up by builders almost everywhere in the Eastern United States in the mid to late nineteenth century.<sup>89</sup>

Many I-houses feature rear appendages. The L appendage extends outward from either the left or right rear of the primary block, whereas T appendages are centered on the rear wall. Usually their gabled roof runs perpendicular to the axis of the main block. Smaller numbers of I-houses have shed-roofed rear appendages in which the main roof is extended rearward but usually at a change of pitch or slope.<sup>90</sup>

Depending on the time of construction, ornament from various styles including Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate was attached.<sup>91</sup> Many I-houses are located in Ste. Genevieve. Among them are the brick, mid-nineteenth century Anton Klemmer House on North Main Street; the stone Eloy LeCompte House, also on North Main Street; the early nineteenth century Aaron Elliott House on South Main Street; the brick Valentine Rottler House on North Third Street; and the mid-nineteenth century wood-framed house at 215 Washington Street. I-houses in Ste. Genevieve are notable for the diversity of material, decorative elements and scale. Examples range from one-and-one-half stories to two stories and are executed in wood-frame, brick and stone. Some display no stylistic elaboration, while others employ decorative elements characteristic of an architectural style.

<sup>88</sup> Massey and Maxwell, "That Which We Call Victorian," 38.

<sup>89</sup> Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer, *Common Houses*, 121.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*, *Common Houses*, 124.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, *Common Houses*, 121.

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### Subtype: Gable Front and Wing Plan

The gable front and wing plan house, also known as the gabled ell, the upright and gable, and the tri-gabled ell is found in substantial numbers in Ste. Genevieve. According to Jakle, Bastian and Meyer, the form originated in upstate New York and spread westward across the upper Midwest. The form is thought to derive from the combining of two traditional double pile forms: the New England classic cottage or double pile cottage and either the two-story, gable front house or the one-and-one-half story gable front cottage. It represents a vernacular simplification of the Greek Revival "Temple and Wing" house.<sup>92</sup>

Elsewhere in the Midwest, studies have identified two chronologically distinctive varieties of upright and wing houses. The oldest version has small-paned, generally six-over-six, double hung, sash windows. The ridge of the wing's roof extends outward from beneath the eave of the upright's roof. The later version has taller windows with larger panes, often four-over-four. The roof ridge of the wing extends from an intermediate position on the roof slope of the upright. In both versions, the front door may be located in either the upright or the wing. When the front door is in the wing, the upright usually does not have a door. When the front door is in the upright, a secondary entrance is usually found in the wing.<sup>93</sup>

Interior floor plans vary, although each section of the house usually stands as a unit with rooms totally contained within one part or the other. Examples of upright and wing plan houses include the Skelgas building on South Main Street, 75 South Second Street, 166 North Third Street, 637 North Third Street, and 41 North Fourth Street, among many others. Most upright and wing houses in Ste. Genevieve were built about 1900 and are of wood-framed construction. Although local examples vary, common elements in Ste. Genevieve include the presence of a hipped roof stoop at the junction of the front and side-gabled block and the presence of double front doors, one in the eaves front block wall and the other in the side wall of the gable front block.

### Subtype: T-plan

The T-plan house, in its most common form, is a gable front and wing plan house with a rear ell. Viewed from above, the house resembles the letter "T." Also known as a cross-plan house, this vernacular design, generally two or two-and-one-half stories, has a multiple gable roof. This design is a late nineteenth and early twentieth century builder form.

Less common in Ste. Genevieve than the gable front and wing plan, examples are scattered through neighborhoods north and south of downtown. Among examples of this style, all executed in wood-frame are 323 St. Mary's Road, 700 LaPorte Street, 51 North Second Street, and 147 South Second Street. Most were constructed in c. 1900. As would be expected in houses built at that date, several incorporate Victorian vernacular elements such as bargeboards or turned porch posts.

### Subtype: Foursquare

A third house type, the foursquare, American Foursquare or cube house, spread across the country in the early twentieth century. Alan Gowans cites the ultimate genealogy of the foursquare as the eighteenth century Georgian mansion arguing that the "foursquare was a Georgian mansion reborn in middle-class form."<sup>94</sup>

Gowans, in his book, *The Comfortable House*, describes the characteristics of the foursquare:

Two stories high, set on a raised basement with the first floor approached by steps, a verandah running the full width of the first story, capped by a low pyramidal roof that usually contains at least a front dormer, and an interior plan of four nearly equal sized rooms per floor plus side stairwell—that is the form of house known

<sup>92</sup> Ibid., 157.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid., 157-159.

<sup>94</sup> Alan Gowans, *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture 1890-1930* (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1986), 87.

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variously as the box, the classic box, the double cube, the plain house, and...as the foursquare. In contrast to the interpenetration of space characteristic of bungalows, the four's basic ethos is a classical self-containment. Despite commonly having only three instead of four columns across the front, asymmetrical placement of porches, irregular fenestration, and side windows breaking up boxy outlines, the fundamental visual effect is balanced and symmetrical.<sup>95</sup>

In general form a foursquare is a two or two-and-one-half story box-like building with a nearly square footprint that contains three or four rooms on each floor. Attic dormers, at least on the front roof slope, are common. Central hallways are frequently absent. Partial central hallways or entry ways are more common and incorporate second floor stairs. Typically, its roof is pyramidal or peaked hip. The house is among the most common early twentieth century vernacular forms in the Northeast and Middle West.<sup>96</sup>

Foursquares are found throughout much of the historic district. Some, such as 627 Market Street, are plain houses with little stylistic elaboration. Others, such as 358 Seraphin Street and two adjacent houses on South Fourth Street, include Colonial Revival decorative elements. One prominent house, the Dr. Lanning House at 98 North Third Street, has finely executed Craftsman detailing. Ste. Genevieve foursquares are executed in both brick and wood-frame.

Less common nationally and in Ste. Genevieve was the one-story foursquare. This form was a smaller version of the two-story foursquare but had some distinctive features and precedents of its own. Gowan characterizes its special form:

What distinguishes this form is primarily its squarish plan capped by a pyramidal roof, and, secondarily, a tendency to cut verandah or porch space out of the basic square of the house. A third common, though not definitive characteristic is a basement raised high enough for the house properly to be approached by a steep flight of wooden steps.<sup>97</sup>

Gowans views the predecessor of the small foursquare as the mid-nineteenth century Classical cottage. Among the one-story foursquares in Ste. Genevieve is 661 Market Street.

Subtype: Shotgun Houses

The shotgun house is a single room wide and two or more rooms deep with either a gabled or hipped roof. Chimney and stairway placements vary. Shed-type porches are common as are exterior side doors that give access to a middle room. Interior hallways are absent. It was said that if a gun were fired through the front door, the shot would pass through all the rooms in a straight line and go out the back door.

Shotgun cottages first appeared in New Orleans during the early nineteenth century and may have been Haitian or even West African in origin. Another theory is that these houses were simply hall and parlor plan dwellings turned sideways to accommodate narrow urban lots. These dwellings, with their very narrow façade, were well-suited to blue-collar neighborhoods where residential lots were typically of modest width.

Often characterized as a southern dwelling, shotgun houses became common along the waterways of the Lower Mississippi Valley, in Southeast Texas, and along the Gulf Coast. This house form is closely associated with African American communities in these areas. Most vernacular shotgun cottages were built between 1865 and 1920.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>95</sup> Ibid., 84.

<sup>96</sup> Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer, 140.

<sup>97</sup> Gowans, *The Comfortable House*, 90.

<sup>98</sup> Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer, *Common Houses*, 145.

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Two shotgun houses have been identified in Ste. Genevieve: 135 North Third Street and 36 Washington Street. Both are believed to have been constructed in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Both are plain, wood-framed dwellings with full-width front porches.

Subtype: Hall and Parlor House

Jakle, Bastian and Meyer divide this form into two types: the single story or story and one-half hall and parlor cottage and the two floor hall and parlor house. Both types, though uncommon, are found in Ste. Genevieve. The hall and parlor cottage has a gable roof and end chimney. If it has a second story, this story is usually finished into bedrooms. The house type originated in Virginia and the Carolina and moved into the Midwest by migration in the early nineteenth century.<sup>99</sup> The house at 320 Washington Street is an example of a hall and parlor cottage.

The hall and parlor house is two full stories in height. As typical of single-pile dwellings L and T shaped appendages are common. Rooms are unequal in size. Early American examples of the form were found in Pennsylvania and Virginia and it spread to the Upper South and then to the Midwest.<sup>100</sup>

Subtype: Stack House

The stack house is the least common of these vernacular house types. It is defined as a set of one-room modules stacked to a height of two or three stories. This eighteenth and nineteenth century building was generally capped by a gable roof.

Only two examples of a stack house have been identified in Ste. Genevieve. The Louis DelCommune House at the intersection of LaHaye and LaPorte streets took on the configuration after a timber-framed section floor was added to a horizontal log cabin. A house located on South Gabouri Street was built as a stack house around 1900.

Significance: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Vernacular Buildings

Intact nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular buildings in Ste. Genevieve may be significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE.

While the more well-to-do residents of small towns were building their houses whose appearance reflected then popular styles, less well-to-do residents resided in plain, vernacular houses. These houses are generally astylistic and many can only be roughly dated. The exception among these vernacular types is the Foursquare which, in the early twentieth century, became the house form of choice for many Americans.

Because of the popularity of these vernacular house forms throughout much of the Eastern and Midwestern United States, they are among the most common remaining nineteenth and early twentieth century building type in many communities. Most do not possess the architectural distinction necessary to "embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction."

Those vernacular house types that do embody these characteristics are generally those which have a vernacular form but also convey a particular style. For example, the Valentine Rottler House, at 501 North Third Street, has attractive stone quoins and stone sills and lintels, a south side bay window, and paired eaves brackets. An I-house, it conveys the distinctive characteristics of the Italianate style. The house is given additional significance by its association with Rottler, a prominent nineteenth century businessman who owned the brewery and by the survival of a nineteenth century smokehouse. As noted, the Dr. Lanning House at 98 North Third Street is a fine example of a Craftsman style foursquare. Decorative elements of this brick house include a

<sup>99</sup> Ibid., 111.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid., *Common Houses*, 114.

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massive porch; grouped three-over-one, double hung, sash windows; eyebrow dormers, and exposed rafter tails. These elements together enable it to embody the distinctive characteristics of a period of construction. Its significance is increased by the presence of a contemporary garage.

Although the typical example of these vernacular house types lacks the significance to be individually eligible for the National Register, if it conveys associations with the period of its construction or later historic alteration, would be eligible as a contributing resource in a larger historic district.

Registration Requirements: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Vernacular Buildings

To qualify for listing in the National Register, buildings must be good representatives of one of the above property subtypes and exhibit sufficient integrity so that they can be readily associated with their period of significance. Critical aspects of integrity include design, workmanship, feeling and association. Siting at the original location is not critical providing that the new site is similar in character to its original site. Because of their location in a changing community, it is expected that the settings of these buildings will have changed over time due to new construction and demolition. Retention of diagnostic materials is critical, but new materials may have been added provided these materials are similar in character to historic materials.

As mentioned, potentially eligible buildings will generally be those that stand above the typical vernacular building due to the association with a particular architectural style. Buildings that meet these requirements will be eligible under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE, with a period of significance that corresponds to the initial construction date and/or the period in which the building acquired its present form. For example, a building erected in 1860 that received a major addition or experienced a significant alteration in 1880 would have a period of significance of 1860-1880.

Typical alterations to these buildings may include replacement of porches, replacement of windows and doors, replacement of the roof with new materials, sheathing in modern materials, and construction of additions. If a porch is replaced with one that reflects the style and period of the original or historic porch, this replacement is acceptable. If windows or doors were replaced more than fifty years ago, or more recent replacements are similar in form and function to the historic members, these changes are acceptable. If a roof is replaced with a material traditionally used on the building, this replacement is acceptable. Sheathing in modern materials such as vinyl or aluminum strongly weakens association with the building's original character and will preclude eligibility. Such buildings may be eligible if the siding is removed, and the historic sheathing materials are intact. Additions are acceptable if they are not made to a primary façade and are in keeping with the scale and character of the original portion of the house.

Additional properties may be eligible as contributing resources within larger historic districts. To be eligible as a contributing resource, a lesser degree of integrity is required. Changes may have been made to the exterior including sheathing in synthetic siding, replacement of windows, and alterations to the porch. To be eligible as a contributing resource, a property must convey associations with the period of significance of the district.

**Property Type E: Twentieth Century Residential Architecture**

Description: Twentieth Century Residential Architecture

With the increased availability of house plans and the availability of prefabricated houses produced by milling companies, twentieth century, middle class domestic architecture used a common stylistic vocabulary throughout much of the country. Colonial Revival houses, originally meant to evoke images of the earlier architecture of New England and the Mid-Atlantic states, began to be built in the Midwest removed from their architectural context. Tudor Revival houses, separated from their English prototypes, owed more to architects who developed the designs for magazines and plan books. The Cape Cod/Williamsburg, loosely based on New England and Virginia prototypes, was spread by prefabricated homes and house plans.



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Bungalows, whose name originated on the Indian subcontinent, were derived from models introduced both in New England and in California. Soon, with pattern books and precut building materials, the bungalow came, in Jakle, Bastian and Meyer's words, "to epitomize the very essence of machine-made housing."<sup>101</sup>

The ranch house, which originated in the San Francisco Bay area in the 1930s, has spread throughout the United States and has come to dominate post-World War II middle class housing. As Jakle, Bastian and Meyer note, "Never before has an architectural idea spread so rapidly and proved so influential in American housing."<sup>102</sup>

Another common twentieth century house type is the vernacular house or cottage. Generally small in scale and often a simple rectangle or square in footprint, these houses were designed as inexpensive, functional residences. Examples of this house type are scattered through Ste. Genevieve's neighborhoods in amongst bungalows and other contemporary houses.

Subtype: Colonial Revival

Although Colonial Revival styles are not as common in the Midwest as in eastern communities, examples do exist. At least some of the examples may have been pre-manufactured homes built by companies such as Aladdin and Sears while other may have been influenced by then-popular home magazines.

Massey and Maxwell divide the Colonial Revival into two phases. The first phase flourished from the 1880s until World War I, while the second phase flourished between the wars. The first phase was as much late Victorian as it was Colonial with an emphasis on elaborate and overscaled ornament and irregular and even eccentric building outlines. The influence of this phase may be seen in transitional Queen Anne-Colonial Revival houses in Ste. Genevieve such as the Thomure House on South Third Street.

The second phase involved production of houses that appeared to more accurately reflect America's early building heritage. General characteristics of this style included the use of simple rectangles and squares with wings added at the sides rather than to the front or bay. They were most often one-and-one-half and two-stories high but side projections such as porches and garages might be a single story high. Rooflines were traditional gables or gambrels. Little ornament was used. Often ornament was restricted to a frontispiece door surround. Windows were larger and more plentiful than in real Colonial dwellings. The most common window type used was small pane, six-over-six sash. Porches were usually placed at one or both ends of the house.<sup>103</sup> Somewhere Inn Time, a bed-and-breakfast located on Jefferson Street, is the only example of this type of Colonial Revival house in Ste. Genevieve.

A popular subtype of the Colonial Revival dwelling in many parts of the country was the Dutch Colonial. The Dutch Colonial is recognizable because of its gambrel or false gambrel roof, its long shed dormers projecting from the front and rear roof slope, and often, its gabled front entry hood. Only one example of a Dutch Colonial house is located in Ste. Genevieve, 105 North Second Street.

The 1912 Jules Petrequin House on Market Street is Ste. Genevieve's lone example of a Colonial Revival/Beaux Arts mansion. Executed in brick, this foursquare features a full-height hemispherical front portico.

Subtype: Bungalow/Craftsman

The predominant style of early twentieth century residential architecture in Ste. Genevieve, as in much of the rest of the country, is the bungalow. Bungalows swept the nation in the first decades of the twentieth century. Hardly known in 1900, by 1920 they

<sup>101</sup> Ibid., 172.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid., 183.

<sup>103</sup> James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "The Formal Revivals: The Colonial and Georgian Styles of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century," *The Old House Journal* (March/April 1991):49-52.

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were so well known as to be going out of fashion. By the 1930s, bungalows had been almost entirely superceded by Colonial Revival designs. The bungalow appears to have had two origins. The strict bungalow house form originated in British Bengal (present India). The bungalow as a dwelling apparently was first used in the resorts of New York and New England and soon spread to California. Alan Gowans defines a bungalow as having at least three of four basic features of the Bengali bungalow:

1. No basement.
2. A roof sweeping over a verandah.
3. The appearance visually of a one- or one-and-one-half story house.
4. The interpenetration of inner and outer space.<sup>104</sup>

Another definition of the bungalow was written by architectural historian Marcus Whiffen:

The true bungalow is a small, single-story house; the attic space may be made usable by a solitary dormer or by windows in the gables, but anything approaching a full second story disqualifies the building for the title of bungalow in the sense that was recognized by the builders and owners of this type of dwelling. The adjective Bungaloid is applicable also to the numerous houses that do their best to look like bungalows while having a second story—house "built along bungalow lines" as they were called.<sup>105</sup>

By the early 1910s, bungalows and bungaloids became popular throughout the United States. Their popularity for suburban and small town houses was spread by published collections of bungalow designs and by magazines that also included examples of these designs. Sufficient demand existed for houses built in the Craftsman style to support companies that produced nothing but prefabricated Craftsman built-in units. Companies such as the Lewis Manufacturing Company of Bay City, Michigan sold house parts ranging from porch supports to plans and materials for entire houses. Complete pre-cut bungalows were available from other companies including Sears-Roebuck and Alladin.

Using the terminology advocated by Gowans and Whiffen, most of Ste. Genevieve's bungalows should properly be called "bungaloid houses." Many have living quarters in the second story illuminated by dormers or gable windows. The bungaloid houses of Ste. Genevieve may be divided into the following subtypes:

- 1) gable-fronted, single-story dwelling with shallow, gable fronted, full width, front porch;
- 2) gable-front, one-and-one half story dwelling with gable-fronted front porch;
- 3) gable-front, one-and-one-half story dwelling with partial-width vestibule or front stoop and side gabled dormers;
- 4) hipped roof, one-and-one-half story dwelling with partial width porch recessed beneath the eaves and hipped front dormer;
- 5) eaves front, gabled roofed bungalow with front gabled dormer and full-width porch recessed beneath eaves;
- 6) eaves front, one-and-one-half story house with large projecting front gabled porch dormer;
- 7) gabled front, one-story house with slightly projecting, partial-width gabled stoop
- 8) eaves front, shallow gabled-roof house with full-width porch recessed behind eaves and low shed-roofed front dormer;
- 9) eaves-front, gabled roofed house with open porch recessed beneath eaves and shed dormer;
- 10) hipped roof house with partial width, shed-roofed stoop and front shed dormer.

Most of these subtypes are represented by numerous examples scattered throughout the older neighborhoods of the city. Among the most numerous are gabled front, one and one-and-one-half story houses with slightly projecting, partial width, gabled stoop. Blaine Street in the western portion of the city is lined with such houses, and others are present on North Sixth Street and other streets north of downtown.

<sup>104</sup> Gowans, *The Comfortable House*, 77.

<sup>105</sup> As cited in Robert Schweitzer and Michael W. R. Davis, *America's Favorite Homes: Mail Order Catalogues as a Guide to Popular Early Twentieth Century Houses* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990), 151-152.

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By far the most common construction material for houses of this style in Ste. Genevieve is wood frame. Small numbers are constructed of brick and stone. A few wood-framed examples have stone trim, and a few others have gables decorated with pebble dash. Although numerous styles of bungalow are present in Ste. Genevieve, a common design that is less commonly found elsewhere is the gabled front bungalow with an incised porch. This porch, square in plan, is recessed beneath one of the roof slopes of the gable front block.

Subtype: Tudor Revival

Small numbers of Tudor Revival residences are scattered through residential areas of Ste. Genevieve. The two most elaborate examples of this style are 323 Seraphin Street and 299 Academy Street.

In his book, *The Comfortable House*, Alan Gowans cites some of the characteristics of the Tudor house:

The distinctive feature...was supposed to be a wall pattern resulting from half-timber construction...; darkened oak timbers whose interstices were filled with whitened nogging (rubble of various sorts, stuccoed, plastered, or whitewashed). Besides this decisive signal, Tudor could also be recognized by prominent, massive chimneys treated with varying degrees of decorative elaboration (channelled brick, twisted whorls, for example); prominent high-peaked roofs often deliberately given a sagging appearance by insertion of wedge-shaped blocks at the end of roof trees at least one story overhanging another; and windows composed of small panes separated by leaded mullions in diamond patterns.<sup>106</sup>

In their book *America's Favorite Homes: Mail-Order Catalogues as a Guide to Popular Early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Homes*, Robert Schweitzer and Michael Davis divide Tudor Revival houses into five types. One of these types, the *Cottage Tudor*, is found in Ste. Genevieve. Schweitzer and Davis define this subtype as a one or one-and-one-half story rectangular type with side-gable (often clipped) orientation, and a high-pitched peak over the front entry vestibule.<sup>107</sup> Other examples of Tudor Revival architecture are 790 LaPorte Street, 699 North Third Street, 840 North Fourth Street, and 249 Academy Street.

No two Tudor Revival houses in Ste. Genevieve are alike. The differences among these houses suggest that their designs were probably derived from published architectural plans.

Subtype: Cape Cod/Williamsburg

With the eclipse of the bungalow, two related house types rose to prominence throughout the United States, the Cape Cod and the Williamsburg. Both house types are small, one or one-and-one-half story dwellings, rectangular in plan arranged around a central entrance. Typically, Cape Cods, derived from a New England prototype, featured steep gabled roof without dormers. Williamsburg style houses, derived from a Virginia prototype, featured front gabled dormers, generally placed on either side of the center line of the façade.<sup>108</sup> Using this terminology, most houses in Ste. Genevieve represent the Williamsburg style.

Williamsburg houses in Ste. Genevieve are sheathed in either wood or brick. Examples are scattered throughout the historic district. Most not only have front dormers but a front gabled entry. Among these houses are 250 South Main Street, 193 South Second Street, 649 North Fourth Street, 348 and 351 Academy Street, and 418 Jefferson Street. These houses are typical of those found in small towns throughout the United States and lack distinctive characteristics that would tie them to one or more local builders.

<sup>106</sup> Gowans, *The Comfortable House*, 186.

<sup>107</sup> Schweitzer and Davis, *America's Favorite Homes*, 174.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, 200-201.

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### Subtype: Ranch/Split Level

The ranch house was a product of the Great Depression and World War II. At war's end, the entire country faced an unmet housing demand. The automobile enabled cities and towns to spread with large lots on curvilinear streets. Architect Cliff May described the characteristics of this new house type:

Most of us describe any one-story house with a low, close-to-the-ground silhouette as a ranch house. When a long, wide porch is added to the form, almost everyone accepts the name. And when wings are added and the house seems to ramble all over the site, the name is established beyond dispute.<sup>109</sup>

A million ranch houses were constructed in the United States each year between 1948 and 1955. Ste. Genevieve received its share of this construction. Outlying neighborhoods, such as those near the west end of Market Street, are largely or totally constructed of ranch houses. Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer divide the ranch house into five major types: the standard ranch, the minimal ranch, the composite ranch, the split-level ranch, and the raised ranch. The most common subtypes in the Ste. Genevieve district are the standard ranch and the split-level ranch.

A standard ranch has been defined as:

...a box-like, one-story structure with a very low-pitched gable or hip roof. In the perimeter outline it is a strict rectangle, the garage usually attached or integrated as part of the overall plan.<sup>110</sup>

In characterizing the split level, Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer write,

It is a multi-story variation on the ranch theme. Retaining the horizontal lines, low-pitched roof, and overhanging eaves, it combines a two-story unit intercepted at mid-height with a one-story wing to create three floor levels of interior space.<sup>111</sup>

Ranch houses are scattered throughout the city and comprise the bulk of newer neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city. Many are located on infill lots between two older houses. The largest concentration of both ranch houses and split level residences in the district is on the west end of Market Street. Most Ste. Genevieve ranch houses are oriented with the eaves front facing the street with smaller numbers oriented with the gable toward the street. A small number are also crowned with hipped roofs. Some also have a front façade marked by a shallow front gable, and some have either a side garage or carport, or a garage located on the basement level. While clapboards and synthetic siding predominate, other houses are completely or partially clad with brick or stone veneer. As with several other Twentieth century styles, no distinctive elements have been identified to differentiate Ste. Genevieve ranch houses from those found elsewhere.

### Subtype: Vernacular Houses

While many twentieth century houses in Ste. Genevieve and elsewhere can be identified as representative of a particular style or form, other, generally smaller, houses lack stylistic elaboration. These houses are often simple square or rectangular blocks, a single story in height, with a gabled or hipped roof. Minimal exterior elaboration often consists of a front cross gable, usually containing the principal entry. In their study of vernacular houses in small towns of the eastern United States, Jakle, Bastian and Meyer identify several subtypes of small Twentieth century vernacular houses. These include:

<sup>109</sup> Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer, *Common Houses*, 183.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, 186.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, 191.

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- 1) Double pile cottage with front extension. This cottage has a perpendicular extension off the front and is covered by a small gable which hits the main roof at or below the ridge line.
- 2) Square cottage. One or one-and-one-half story dwellings with a gable or hipped roof.
- 3) Gable front, double pile cottages.
- 4) L-plan cottages.<sup>112</sup>

Such small houses were built to provide inexpensive housing for middle class families. Examples are scattered throughout the city. Among them are 198 South Front Street, a concrete block, single story, L-plan house; 799 North Main Street, a wood-framed, side-gabled house; 299 South Main Street, a wood-framed, side-gabled cottage; 151 North Second Street, a gabled front, wood-framed house; and 503 Memorial Drive, a gabled and hipped roof, wood-framed block. Common stylistic or construction elements are lacking. Some or most of these houses may have been erected by carpenter builders.

Significance: Twentieth Century Residences

The styles of twentieth century residences are typical of those found in cities and towns of the eastern and Midwestern United States. As indicated in Jakle, Bastian and Meyer's book, *Common Houses in America's Small Towns*, these major types are ubiquitous; it is the percentages of each that differ. The numbers of the various styles can be correlated with periods of economic and population growth in a community. For example, the large number of bungalows in Ste. Genevieve is indicative of the community's growth in the 1910s and 1920s as a result of the lime industry. The relatively small number of Tudor revival dwellings can be attributed in part to the generally middle-class demographics of the city and its slow population growth in the 1930s and early 1940s. Tudors are far more common in wealthier eras such as Scarsdale, New York and Shaker Heights, Ohio, where the so-called "stockbroker's Tudor" abounds. The numbers of ranch houses in outlying areas of Ste. Genevieve may be attributed to the establishment of new sources of employment, such as International Shoes, and later, Bilt Best, and the establishment of interstate highway connections with larger employment centers such as St. Louis County and Cape Girardeau.

Because of the sheer number of each of these house types, most examples do not rise to the level of significance necessary for National Register eligibility. Those that do are generally the most elaborate examples of their particular style. For example, the 1935 Tudor Revival dwelling at 299 Academy Street, with its half timbered front-gabled bay, elaborate stone window and door surrounds, and matching garage represents a significant example that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type or period of construction. Similarly, the classic California bungalow at 302 South Fourth Street with its wood-shingled siding, low porch, stone chimney, and pebble dash gable peaks, also represents a significant example that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type or period of construction. Other grouped resources, such as the bungalow housing associated with the present Mississippi Lime Company, possess significance under National Register Criterion A. Most of these houses, however, do not rise to the level of significance needed for National Register eligibility. Instead, they would constitute contributing resources of a historic district.

Registration Requirements: Twentieth Century Residences

To qualify for individual listing in the National Register, a building must be a notable representative of the subtype and must exhibit sufficient integrity to be easily recognizable as a product of its period of significance. Eligible properties will convey all aspects of integrity including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Because of the popularity of each of these house styles, most examples are not individually notable. Eligibility is limited to those buildings that retain a high level of integrity and represent "high style" examples of a subtype, conveying a level of architectural distinction beyond that of the common example. Buildings meeting these requirements will be eligible under Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE, with a period of significance which corresponds to the date of construction and the period in which the building took its present form.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid., 136-138, 159.

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Eligible examples will retain their basic original form with no major alterations to primary elevations. Rooflines and fenestration patterns should be generally intact. For example, the three-over-one sash characteristic of many bungalows cannot have been replaced with one-over-one sash. Door and window openings, particularly on the major elevations, should be unaltered. Doors and windows should be original or greater than fifty years of age, or extremely close to the originals in dimensions and configuration. Original exterior woodwork and other ornamental detailing, such as half-timbering in Tudor Revival dwellings or exposed rafter tails at bungalow eaves, should be largely or completely intact.

Original or early materials should predominate, especially on exterior wall surfaces. Synthetic siding that is less than fifty years old is generally unacceptable. Replacement siding materials more than fifty years old, such as cement-asbestos siding, may be acceptable. Alterations to rear eels and secondary facades are acceptable, as long as the basic form and massing of the original building are not obscured, and the scale of new construction does not overpower the original block of the building. Porches and stoops are integral to the design of several of these subtypes including the bungalow, Colonial Revival, and Cape Cod/Williamsburg. Because porches and stoops represent character-defining elements, they should be intact and basically unchanged to preserve the building's individual eligibility.

A few houses of these subtypes may rise to the level of significance and integrity necessary for individual National Register eligibility. Far greater numbers of these subtypes are eligible as contributing resources within larger historic districts. To be eligible as a contributing resource, a lesser degree of integrity is required. strong associations with the period of significance of the district.

**Property Type F: Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Religious Buildings**

While residences predominate in the outlying portions of Ste. Genevieve, commercial, industrial, institutional and religious buildings predominate in the downtown area of the city. Smaller numbers of non-residential buildings are located north, south and west of downtown. Most of these buildings were constructed in the period from 1860 to the present. A few earlier buildings exist, including the Dufour-Rozier Building on Merchant Street and the Academy on North Fifth Street, both of which were built in the first portion of the nineteenth century.

These buildings were designed in a wide variety of styles from the Federal and Anglo-American vernacular of the earliest buildings, to the Italianate, Romanesque, and Victorian styles of the later nineteenth century, to the Colonial Revival and Art Deco styles of the twentieth century. Property types represent the typical range for a small city including commercial buildings, industrial and railroad buildings, governmental buildings, schools, and churches.

Subtype: Commercial Buildings

In Ste. Genevieve, as many communities, early commercial buildings were often either built as residences or are similar in design to residences. As noted, two of the oldest commercial buildings, the John Price House and the John Donahue House (Southern Hotel) were erected as residences. Another early commercial building, the Jean Baptiste Bossier Warehouse, at 200 Merchant Street, closely resembles early nineteenth century Anglo-American vernacular houses. The most distinctive early nineteenth century commercial building in Ste. Genevieve is the Dufour-Rozier Building at 201 Merchant Street. This two-story, front gabled, stone block was clearly built as a warehouse (it was later converted to a bank).

The use of typical residential forms for commercial buildings continued later into the nineteenth century. Several commercial buildings in Ste. Genevieve are gabled front, wood-framed blocks. These include the c. 1870 Henry Wilder Building at 198 North Main Street and the c. 1865 Ferdinand Roy Building (present Ste. Genevieve Herald building) at 330 Market Street.

In his book, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*, Richard Longstreth developed a frequently used typology of downtown commercial buildings. Of the eleven basic compositional types listed by Longstreth, two,

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the two-part commercial block, and the one-part commercial block, predominate in the downtown commercial district of Ste. Genevieve. By the mid-nineteenth century, the freestanding commercial buildings of early Ste. Genevieve began to give way to attached two-part commercial blocks.

The two-part commercial block is the most common type of composition used for small and moderate-sized commercial buildings in United States cities and towns. These blocks are generally limited to two to four stories and are characterized by a horizontal division into two distinct zones. The two-part division reflects differences in interior use. The single-story lower zone, located at street level, is used for public spaces such as retail stores, banking rooms, and hotel lobbies. The upper zone incorporates more private spaces such as offices, hotel rooms, meeting halls or apartments. The two-part commercial block emerged as a distinctive United States building type during the first half of the nineteenth century and was prevalent from 1850 to 1950.<sup>113</sup>

Among the least altered nineteenth century two-part commercial blocks in Ste. Genevieve are the Anvil Bar and Restaurant, 44 South Third Street (c.1870) and the Augustine Menard Building, 2 South Main Street (c. 1875). Several late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial blocks including 316 Market Street, 178 North Main Street, and 132 and 252 Merchant Street are notable for their pressed metal cornices or façades.

The one-part commercial block has only a single story that is treated in similar ways to the lower zone of the two-part commercial block. Longstreth describes this form:

Essentially it is a fragment of the larger type and should not be confused with the one-story shop, freestanding and capped by a pitched roof, which could be found in settlements during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Rather than appearing somewhat like a small house or service facility on a sizable farm or plantation, the one-part commercial block is a simple box with decorated façade and thoroughly urban in its overtones.<sup>114</sup>

This building type is relatively uncommon in Ste. Genevieve, although scattered examples are found on Merchant, Market, and Third streets. Among examples of one-part blocks are 364 Market Street and 34 South Third Street.

Two-part commercial blocks continued to be built in the first decades of the twentieth century. Among the early twentieth century examples are 252 Merchant Street (1908), the Kmetz House Baker, 260 Merchant Street, c. 1930, the Koetting Building, 360 Market Street (c. 1910) and the Hotel Ste. Genevieve, 1 North Main Street (c. 1900-1910).. As the century progressed, freestanding buildings became more common. Free-standing commercial blocks replaced some of the earlier buildings in downtown. Among these recent buildings are the Citizens Electric Company at 150 Merchant Street, the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company at 150 Market Street, and the present Firstar Bank at 400 Market Street.

In addition to downtown retail and office buildings, other commercial building types are also represented in Ste. Genevieve. Among these are several gasoline service stations, each of which appears to date from the 1930s, a fuel depot, and two blacksmith shops. Standing early gas stations are located at 301 North Main Street, in front of the former Cone Mills, at 498 North Third Street, and at the northwest corner of Fourth and Market streets. One of the two blacksmith shops, a building located at 202 North Main Street, has been converted to a garage. The other building, located at 205 Washington Street, is presently vacant. The fuel depot is located on the south side of Market Street at the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad tracks.

<sup>113</sup> Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1987), 24.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid., 54.

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Subtype: Industrial and Railroad Buildings

Because Ste. Genevieve has never been a heavily industrialized community, the city lacks the range of industrial building types found in communities more dependent on industry. The earliest industrial buildings, both of which date from the second half of the nineteenth century, are the Ste. Genevieve Brewery on North Third Street and Cone Mills on North Main Street.

Cone Mills, an astylistic limestone and brick building, has been altered by twentieth century additions, although the nineteenth century core is still visible. The Richardsonian Romanesque brewery, of brick construction, is two stories in height. Detailing includes a rusticated limestone block foundation and Roman-arched door and window surrounds.

Twentieth century industrial and industrial-related buildings reflect the diversification of the economy in Ste. Genevieve. The coming of the railroad to the community was marked by the wood-framed, gable on hipped roof, passenger depot on North Front Street (c. 1905) and the brick, stepped-parapeted freight depot (c. 1910). The former building, which was located on North Front Street, was demolished in 2001 after the attempt to find a new use failed.

In the twentieth century, additional industrial buildings were erected in the city. Among these were the large brick factory building with flat roof monitor that now sits abandoned at Market and Front Street. This building was erected in about 1920 as a site to manufacture washing machines. The earliest portions of the present Sylvanus complex at the east end of downtown and the Bilt Best Window Company off Market Street were erected in the 1940s. The Ste. Genevieve Creamery, a concrete block building later used as an automobile repair shop, was erected in the 1920s. All of these twentieth century industrial buildings are designed in a functional modern industrial style.

As mentioned, the most significant twentieth century industry in Ste. Genevieve is lime processing. At its peak, four companies operated in the city. Three companies shut down operations, and their buildings were demolished. The fourth company, which now operates as Mississippi Lime, has a large complex of buildings and underground mines west of U.S. Route 61. One significant historic resource is known to exist on the property, a nineteenth century limekiln. Were survey of the property to be permitted, it is possible that additional resources would be identified.

Subtype: Governmental and Educational Buildings

Ste. Genevieve boasts a variety of types and periods of educational buildings. The nineteenth century history of the community is represented by the Academy, an early nineteenth century stone building used as the first school in the community. The second school building in the community, the Lincoln School, still stands on Washington Street. This gabled front, brick building, initially served the white population of the town and was subsequently used as Ste. Genevieve's first African American school. A third nineteenth century school building is the original portion of the Vallé School, a stone building constructed in the mid-nineteenth century.

Several of the city's historic schools have been demolished. A surviving school from the first half of the twentieth century is the former Ste. Genevieve High School (present junior high school). This Colonial Revival building designed by the St. Louis architectural firm of Bonsack and Pearce is part of an educational complex including an elementary school and high school that was built north of Maple Street and west of Fifth Street.

The historic county government complex forms a building ensemble on the West side of Third Street between Merchant and Market. The three buildings, all of nineteenth century construction, share a similar architectural vocabulary. The north building, which most recently served as the chamber of commerce office is a brick and stone Italianate block built in about 1870. The south building, the former jail, matches the north building and was also erected in 1870. The central building, the Eastlake-style County Courthouse, was built in 1885 to a design by St. Louis architect Jerome B. Legg. It was expanded twice during the twentieth century.



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The Ste. Genevieve Post Office was constructed as a Depression-era public works project. Typical of public buildings of the time, it employs a Colonial Revival vocabulary executed in brick.

A singular building type is the Ste. Genevieve Museum. Erected in 1935 to celebrate the purported Bicentennial of the founding of the city, this stone Norman Revival building features an arched entry, exaggerated stone dentils, and iron gates.

With the exception of the Academy and the former high school, all of these buildings are located within the central business district of Ste. Genevieve. Five of the buildings, the county buildings, the museum, and the Catholic Church are located on the original public square, the *place*.

Subtype: Churches

Three historic churches are located in downtown Ste. Genevieve. Indicative of the religious demographics of the community, the largest of the three is the Catholic Church of Ste. Genevieve. The church, whose spire dominates the skyline of the city, sits on the historic public square of Ste. Genevieve. Cruciform in plan with a polygonal apse, the brick church is Gothic in design. Erected in 1876-1880 and enlarged in 1910, it sits on the site of an 1831 stone church. Remnants of this earlier church are still visible in the basement of the present building.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Market Street, built in 1869 with later additions, a gabled front brick building, employs a Romanesque architectural vocabulary. Its round-arched entry is set in a slightly projecting central bay, and all the windows are round-arched. The simple, Gothic Revival brick First Presbyterian Church, located on South Main Street, was built in 1904. Its west elevation is marked by a corner tower with a witch's hat roof.

Ste. Genevieve has several other newer churches. The Apostolic Truth United Pentecostal Church, a c. 1960, brick-faced building, is located on North Main Street. Other newer churches are located on the outskirts of the city..

Significance: Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Religious Buildings

All of these buildings are representative of significant aspects of the history of the city of Ste. Genevieve. Commercial buildings are potentially eligible under Criterion A with COMMERCE as one area of significance. Manufacturing buildings are potentially significant in the area of INDUSTRY. County buildings are potentially significant in the area of GOVERNMENT while schools are potentially significant under EDUCATION and/or SOCIAL HISTORY. Churches are potentially significant in the area of RELIGION. Some of these buildings may also possess significance in the area of ARCHITECTURE.

Several of these buildings are clearly individually significant. For example, under manufacturing, the Brewery, as a little-altered though vacant, building is significant for its role in the development of industry in late nineteenth century Ste. Genevieve and as a well-executed example of Romanesque Revival architecture. The Academy is significant both for its Federal style architecture and for its historic role as one of the first schools west of the Mississippi River. The former Lincoln School on Washington Street is significant for its role in the education of African American students in the community. The post office is significant as a Depression-era public works project and is also significant in the area of ART for its lobby mural painted by a member of the Ste. Genevieve Art Colony. The Roman Catholic Church of Ste. Genevieve is significant for its role in the religious history of the community and meets Criteria Consideration A as a "religious property deriving primary significance from architecture."

Most of the downtown commercial buildings do not rise to the level of significance required for National Register listing. Instead, they constitute contributing resources of a potential Ste. Genevieve Downtown Historic District. The few exceptions are the best preserved examples of building types such as the Art Deco Orris Theater, the 1893 Mary E. Kern Building with its pressed metal façade, and the well preserved 1870 Anvil Restaurant with its little altered first floor, its pressed metal storefront, and its segmentally arched windows.

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As noted, buildings of this property type are potentially significant under Criterion A in a number of areas of significance including Commerce, Industry, Education, Government, Religion, Art and Social History. To be eligible under Criterion A, important events or developmental forces must relate the property type to its historic context. The property type must be directly related to pivotal events or activities characterizing the historic context. For example, the brewery is directly related to both the flourishing of the German community in late nineteenth century Ste. Genevieve and to the industrial development of the late nineteenth century community. To be eligible under Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE, a building should be a notable example of its property type.

In addition to significance, National Register eligibility is contingent upon integrity. To be eligible, a property must retain integrity of location, design, workmanship, feeling and association. Because most of these properties are located in the evolving downtown area of the city, it is to be expected that the characteristics of the properties' setting will have changed over time. Exterior and interior building materials may also have been altered. For example, a typical change to a downtown commercial building may include reconfiguration of its original storefront and entry. Multi-light display windows may have been replaced by plate glass windows, and original wood-framed entry doors may have been replaced by steel-framed glass doors. If the basic character of the storefront is retained though new materials are used, the building may remain eligible. The significance of the building is increased if the upper story retains its original character including original openings and cornice. A building that has been "slipcovered" with its original façade sheathed in modern materials would not be eligible. Enclosure of openings including windows and doors is expected giving changing uses of buildings. Enclosure of openings on secondary elevations is acceptable, especially if such changes are reversible. Construction of additions is acceptable providing these additions are in scale with the original portion of the building and do not obscure or severely change a primary elevation. Modern alterations for handicapped accessibility may also have taken place. If the ramp or other means of access is compatible in character with the building, this alteration is acceptable. Alterations that have occurred more than 50 years ago are part of the historic evolution of the building and are also acceptable.

A lesser degree of integrity is required for a building of this property type to be eligible as a contributing resource of a historic district. To be eligible as a contributing resource, a property must convey strong associations with the period of significance of the district.

**Property Type G: Bridges**

Description: Bridges

Two types of pre-1952 bridges are represented in the City of Ste. Genevieve. These bridges carry traffic across the North and South Forks of the Gabouri Creek. Vehicular traffic is carried by concrete girder, single spans, while rail traffic is carried by steel, plate girder spans with associated timber bent viaducts. The earliest of the railroad bridges were constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century, when rail service was first established in the city. The road bridges were constructed in the 1930s and 1940s. A railroad bridge carries a line across South Main Street and the South Fork of the Gabouri Creek. Another bridge carries the line across the North Fork of the Gabouri Creek east of North Main Street. Pre-1952 concrete girder vehicular bridges are located on North Main Street and North and South Fourth streets.

Significance: Bridges

Bridges are a common structure type in almost every community. To reduce construction cost and to lessen construction time, most small-scale bridges were designed to widely used plans. For example, the concrete girder bridges that carry North and South Fourth Street and North Main Street over the forks of the Gabouri are all similar in design and are similar in design to other small bridges erected at about the same time throughout Missouri and elsewhere in the United States. The steel plate girder bridge with timber bent approach viaducts that carries the railroad across South Main Street is also similar to contemporary bridges of similar scale elsewhere on the same line and on other Missouri railroad lines.

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Bridges can be significant under National Register Criterion C as early surviving examples of a design or type or for incorporation of innovative technology. For example, a nineteenth century concrete bridge has the potential for significance as an early use of that material in bridge construction, or the first, or earliest surviving example of a particular truss type, would possess significance, as well. Railroad bridges can be individually eligible as surviving early examples of a bridge type, or as exemplifying a rare or well-preserved example of historic bridge technology.

### Registration Requirements: Bridges

In order to be eligible under Criterion C in the area of engineering a bridge must be an example of a bridge design that was important in the construction of bridges in Ste. Genevieve city or county or Missouri. A bridge may be eligible for engineering significance even if alterations have been made to its form and materials as long as the significant engineering design is prominent and intact.

As noted, none of the bridges appears to possess individual significance for its engineering. Bridges are eligible as contributing resources within a historic district if they were constructed during the period of significance of the district and if they retain sufficient historic fabric to convey associations with the period of significance.

### Property Type H: Archeological Sites

#### Description: Archeological Sites

Archeological investigations have been conducted in Ste. Genevieve beginning in the 1930s. These investigations have resulted in the identification of a number of sites in the city and its immediate vicinity. One of the best known sites is the Common Field Site, 23STG11/100/112, originally reported in the late 1930s by Frank Magre, Paul Munger and two WPA laborers. The site, which contains six Native American mounds, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1969.

A second significant site is the remains of old Town Ste. Genevieve (23STG124) occupied during the mid-to-late eighteenth century. The site, represented by a light to moderate scatter of historic debris and two limestone clusters, was located by James Porter in 1975 during a survey for the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Several cultural resource management surveys have been conducted on the floodplain south of Ste. Genevieve. Porter's 1974 survey located several prehistoric sites. Each of these sites, numbered 23STG116-118 and 23STG120-123, were identified based on one or two flakes found on the surface. In 1984, a new prehistoric site was identified north of 23STG11/100/112.

Phase I archeological survey of construction sites for the City of Ste. Genevieve resulted in the identification of a single previously undocumented site, 23STG167. This prehistoric site yielded a light to moderate scatter of artifacts. Material included two unifacial tools, seven heavy duty bifacial tools, five utilized flakes, and several waste flakes.

Additional prehistoric and historic sites were identified in a 1982 survey of proposed levee alignments or borrow areas adjoining the Mississippi River. These sites, all located in the floodplain south of the city, have been designated as sites 23STG151 to 157. Site 23STG151 contains a concentration of debris that consists primarily of broken ceramic and glass vessels manufactured from 1850 to the present with the majority produced between the 1890s and 1920s. Investigators postulated that these artifacts represent trash disposal from one or two residences.<sup>115</sup> Site 23STG152 consisted of an isolated grit-tempered prehistoric pottery

<sup>115</sup> R. David Hoxie, "Archeological Resources Survey and Impact Assessment of the Ste. Genevieve Levee Project Area, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri," prepared for the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by American Resources Group, Ltd., Carbondale, Illinois, 1983:11.

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sherd.<sup>116</sup> Site 23STF153 consisted of a limited amount of historic debris found at the foot of two pecan trees on the northeast side of St. Mary's Road. The assemblage includes a mixture of ceramic and glass vessels with earliest manufacturing dates ranging from the 1830s to the early twentieth century.<sup>117</sup> Site 23STG154 represents an area of light historic debris composed of undiagnostic artifacts at the base of a pecan tree northeast of St. Mary's Road.<sup>118</sup> Site 23STG155 consists of a sizable amount of historic debris near St. Mary's Road. The debris consisted primarily of broken ceramic and glass vessels with manufacturing dates extending from c. 1800 to the present with the majority between c. 1830 and 1900. Local informants suggested that the artifacts may be associated with African American families who lived in the vicinity.<sup>119</sup> Site 23STG156, located east of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad right-of-way north of the North Gabouri Creek, includes domestic artifacts dating from 1903 to the present with the majority from the 1920s and 1930s.<sup>120</sup> Site 23STG157, located northeast of North Main Street, consists of a small amount of historic debris, most of it dating between the early 1900s and the 1930s.<sup>121</sup>

A 1986 Phase I archeological survey was conducted in conjunction with the proposed Ste. Genevieve Apartments project on Seraphin Street. Prior to the investigation, local informants had indicated that the apartment site may have been the location of a fort in the 1790s to provide for the defense of Ste. Genevieve and New Bourbon. Test units did not result in the identification of any artifacts from the documented period of occupancy of the fort.<sup>122</sup>

In 1988, testing was conducted at the Felix Vallé State Historic Site by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Archeological Survey. An initial soil probe survey was conducted and resulted in the identification of two building locations shown on Sanborn fire insurance maps and four previously undocumented subsurface deposits. Additional testing was conducted at the two building locations, at a possible privy location, and at a deeply buried limestone deposit. One of the buildings was identified as having been used for food preparation and possibly as a servant's quarters. The second building appears to have been first used as a domestic structure and later for utilitarian purposes. Material dating from the 1830s was uncovered at both building locations.<sup>123</sup>

In 1990, a phase I archeological survey of 144.51 acres for the proposed Trautman industrial development south of Ste. Genevieve was conducted. Three prehistoric sites were identified and were labeled as 23STG191, 23STG192, and 23STG193. Only one site, 23STG191, a large lithic scatter, was deemed significant. Excavation revealed the presence of components dating from the Archaic and Late Woodland periods. The components were postulated to represent small residential hamlet, possibly occupied on a seasonal basis.<sup>124</sup>

In 1995, a survey undertaken by the Archeological Research center of St. Louis, Inc., preparatory to construction to repair elements of the city's water supply damaged by the 1993 flood, identified two previously unrecorded archeological sites. Site 23SG229 was identified on a natural terrace near the South Fork of the Gabouri Creek and South Fourth Street. Excavation yielded remains of a limestone foundation, as well as pottery, glass and brick fabric and nails and other metal fragments. The researchers postulated that the structure was an outbuilding used for storage near the turn of the twentieth century.<sup>125</sup>

<sup>116</sup> Ibid., 15.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid., 16.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid., 17.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid., 18, 20.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>121</sup> Ibid., 26.

<sup>122</sup> Environmental Research Center of Missouri, Inc., "Cultural Resource Investigations, Phase I Survey, Proposed Ste. Genevieve Apartments Project, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri," Jefferson City, Missouri: Environmental Research Center of Missouri, Inc., 1986:20-21.

<sup>123</sup> Joseph L. Harl, Dennis Naglich, Timothy E. Baumann and Jennifer Spence, "Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Flood Mitigation Project in the City of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri" (St. Louis: Archeological Research Center of St. Louis, Inc., 1995):32-33.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid., 33.

<sup>125</sup> Ibid., 37-38.

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Site 23SG230 was located southwest of the junction of Market and Eighth streets. The remnants of a limestone cellar wall/foundation were visible immediately west of the proposed water line, as well as the remnants of an exterior stairway and a mortar-lined cistern. Uncovered artifacts include a complete stoneware jar and a kaolin pipe fragment. Researchers postulated that this site represented the remains of a recently razed mid-to-late nineteenth century residence.<sup>126</sup>

An ongoing program of archeological excavations has been occurring at the Delassus-Kern House, a French vertical log dwelling located adjacent to U.S. Route 61, approximately three miles south of downtown Ste. Genevieve. Excavations in the immediate vicinity of the house have resulted in the identification of deposits associated with the post-1840 Kern period of ownership. An excavation undertaken in the summer of 2000 on the ridge above the house resulted in the identification of deposits associated with late eighteenth century French occupation of the area.

Previous archeological investigations in Ste. Genevieve and vicinity point to the potential of the city to contain additional, as yet unidentified, archeological sites that possess significance under one or more of the identified historic contexts. These sites may provide valuable insight into the social life and economy of the early community. Potential sites may be associated with the French, German, Anglo-American, and African American communities.

### Significance: Archeological Sites

The procedures for evaluating the significance of historic archeological sites are described in National Register Bulletin 36, *Guidelines for Evaluating Archeological Sites and Districts*.<sup>127</sup> Depending on the site context, archeological sites have the potential to be significant under any of the four National Register criteria. Most National Register-eligible sites are significant under Criterion D. To be significant under this criterion, a property must meet two basic requirements:

- The property must have, or have had, information that can contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory.
- The information must be considered important.<sup>128</sup>

The primary area of significance for the archeological sites of Ste. Genevieve is ARCHEOLOGY: Historic-Non-Aboriginal. The identified historic contexts of Ste. Genevieve provide additional potential areas of significance. Archeological sites in the city may be associated with one of the primary ethnic-racial groups of the city. As noted, above, existing archeological excavations have yielded artifacts associated with the French, and possibly, the African American communities. It is logical to assume that additional excavations in proximity to Anglo-American or German buildings could yield artifacts related to those communities. Therefore, archeological sites in the city may be potentially significant under the areas of ETHNIC HERITAGE: European and ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black.

Other potential areas of significance relate to important chapters in the history of the community. For example, although no archeological remains have yet been found, it is possible that remains may exist of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century fort. Such remains would possess significance in the area of MILITARY. If excavation in the vicinity of the right-of-way of the Plank Road yields artifacts related to the mid-nineteenth century use of this road, the identified site would possess significance in the area of TRANSPORTATION. Other potential transportation-related archeological sites include Little Rock Landing and the site of the railroad shops north of town. Industrial remains associated with the lime industry, the brewing industry, and the milling industry exist in Ste. Genevieve. Should sites be identified that are associated with any of these

<sup>126</sup> Ibid., 39-40.

<sup>127</sup> Jan Townsend, John H. Sprinkle, Jr. and John Knoerl, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Historical Archeological Sites and Districts*, National Register Bulletin 36 (Washington, D.C.: National Register of Historic Places, 1993).

<sup>128</sup> Ibid., 23.

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industries, they would possess significance in the area of INDUSTRY. Similarly, it is possible that archeological sites may be present that are associated with downtown commercial buildings. These sites, if identified, may possess significance in the area of COMMERCE. Other, as yet to be identified sites within the city limits of Ste. Genevieve may possess significance under the areas of ART, RELIGION, EDUCATION, and SOCIAL HISTORY.

Registration Requirements: Archeological Sites

The procedures for registering historic archeological sites are described in National Register Bulletin 36, *Guidelines for Evaluating Archeological Sites and Districts*. To possess significance under Criteria A, B or C, the site must be capable of yielding information that is important in the study of a historical event or events, the study of a notable Ste. Genevieve individual, or the study of a type, period or method of construction. As noted, to possess significance under Criterion D, an archeological property not only has to have the potential to yield information but that information has to be important in history or prehistory. Important information is measured in terms of that information's potential to answer historical archeology's important research questions.<sup>129</sup>

National Register Bulletin 36 lists a five step process in identifying the potential significance of an archeological property under Criterion D:

1. Identify the property's data set(s) or categories of archeological, historical, or ecological information.
2. Identify the historic context(s), that is, the appropriate historical and archeological framework in which to evaluate the property.
3. Identify the important research question(s) that the property's data sets can be expected to address.
4. Taking archeological integrity into consideration, evaluate the data sets in terms of their potential and known ability to answer research questions.
5. Identify the important information that an archeological study of the property has yielded or is likely to yield.<sup>130</sup>

If an archeological property can be expected to yield important information related to one or more identified historic context, it meets the registration requirements of its property type under Criterion D.

Site in Ste. Genevieve possess the potential for yielding important information concerning each of the identified historic contexts. Perhaps most significant are those sites that could enable archeologists to compare and contrast the life of the various ethnic groups in early Ste. Genevieve. Sites would be eligible for the National Register if they are sufficient intact to answer research questions concerning one or more periods in a specific ethnic group's history in Ste. Genevieve. Such sites would be particularly notable if they are stratified, and if these layers contain artifacts that are evidence in changing economic or social roles of the site's occupants.

**Property Type I: Cemeteries**

Ste. Genevieve presently contains several cemeteries. The oldest is Memorial Cemetery, established in the late eighteenth century west of downtown Ste. Genevieve and located west of Fifth Street, north of Market Street and south of Jefferson Street. This cemetery contains the graves of many of the community's pioneer French and Anglo-American settlers, as well as graves of later German immigrants. Most of its graves are marked by stone slabs or obelisks, although a few iron crosses survive to mark graves, as well. The cemetery became filled in the late nineteenth century. Later interments were made in other community cemeteries including Holy Cross Cemetery, south of Maple Street, and a newer cemetery on County Route M south of downtown Ste. Genevieve.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid., 27.

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### Significance: Cemeteries

Ste. Genevieve cemeteries may be significant under National Register Criteria A or C. Under National Register Criterion A, a cemetery may be significant for association with events important in the history of the community. For instance, a cemetery may possess significance under ETHNIC HISTORY if its markers convey the diversity of the community and illustrate cultural differences of ethnic groups. The Memorial Cemetery conveys the diversity of the community through its division into primarily French, Anglo-American and German areas, and the lettering of some German gravestones in the immigrants' native language. It may also possess significance if it contains the final resting place of individuals who died as a result of an incident important in the history of a community, such as an epidemic, storm, or man-made disaster. A cemetery may also be eligible for its age, if it is one of the oldest or the oldest burial grounds in a community or area.

Cemeteries may be significant under Criterion C if they possess distinctive design features such as notable landscape patterns or locally idiosyncratic monument types.

### Registration Requirements: Cemeteries

The National Register Criteria specify that cemeteries are ordinarily not individually eligible for the National Register but may be eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.

Only the Memorial Cemetery appears potentially individually eligible for the National Register. This eligibility would be based upon its age as the oldest cemetery in the city with interments dating back to Ste. Genevieve's early days at its present location, and with its association with the early ethnic influx in the community. The cemetery is already included as a contributing resource of the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Landmark district and the Ste. Genevieve National Register Historic District. Initial examination of Ste. Genevieve's other cemeteries appears to indicate that neither meets National Register Criterion D. Holy Cross Cemetery might be eligible as a contributing resource of a larger historic district, should a district be established in the city's west end.

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### G. Geographic Limits

Because historic resources dating from the period of significance are located throughout the city, the geographical limits include all the land within the corporate limits of the City of Ste. Genevieve, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri.



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**H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

Formal historic documentation of the buildings of Ste. Genevieve began in the 1930s. In that decade, Historic American Building Survey forms were prepared for many of its French vernacular buildings and a few Anglo-American buildings by Eugene L. Pleitsch and Homer T. Trueblood. Most of this documentation consisted of a single page historic narrative and at least one photograph. Measured drawings were produced for a few of these buildings.

At about the same time that Pleitsch and Trueblood were preparing written documentation of the city's buildings, historian Charles van Ravenswaay and St. Louis photographer Paul Piaget began a photographic survey of early Missouri buildings. Several Ste. Genevieve buildings were included in this photographic documentation.

In the same decade, Charles E. Peterson, the eminent historical architect, first visited Ste. Genevieve. Peterson wrote a brief summary of the history and architecture of the community in a pamphlet, "A Guide to Ste. Genevieve and Notes on its Architecture," prepared in 1939. This study was elaborated upon in an article, "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," that Peterson wrote for the January 1941 issue of the *Missouri Historical Review*. This article contained a sketch of the history of the community, description of its historic architecture, and listings and brief descriptions of 24 properties in the city.

Ste. Genevieve first received official recognition for its early buildings when the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, and Buildings and Monuments approved the designation of Ste. Genevieve as a National Historic Landmark on April 22, 1959. The city was deemed significant under Theme V, French Exploration and Settlement. The National Historic Landmark form briefly described eight noteworthy buildings. No boundaries were delineated for the district nor was a comprehensive list of historic buildings provided.

The first boundaries for the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Landmark District were approved by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, and Buildings and Monuments in October 1970. The boundary description was prepared by Dr. Ernest Connally and delineated on a 15-minute series U.S.G.S. topographic map. The accompanying text mentioned eight buildings.

In 1975, revised National Historic Landmark documentation for a Ste. Genevieve Historic District was prepared by Stephen Lissandrello, historian for the National Park Service. The documentation identified 49 buildings as contributing to the district's significance. This documentation was never approved.

During the 1980s, major strides were taken in documentation of the city's architectural resources. The primary effort was a University of Missouri survey of the historic architecture of the entire city. For the first time, formal documentation was provided for a large number of post-French buildings in the city. The documentation included the approximate dates of construction of buildings based on documentary and physical evidence and delineation of a proposed district boundary. Later in the same decade, University of Missouri researchers prepared Historic American Buildings Survey documentation for eleven buildings in the city.

In 1986, the National Park Service contracted with Dr. Osmund Overby of the University of Missouri to prepare new National Historic Landmark documentation for the district. Between 1986 and 1990 Professor Overby worked on preparing a new nomination. The documentation never received final approval by the National Park Service.

In 1987, an initial attempt was made to prepare a National Register nomination for a Ste. Genevieve district. Bonnie Stepenoff, a faculty member at Southeast Missouri State University, drafted a significance statement for an ethnic heritage historic district whose significance rested in the contributions of three ethnic traditions, the French, the Anglo-Americans, and the Germans. The nomination was never completed and was not evaluated by the Missouri State Review Board.

In 1999, the National Park Service contracted with John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) to prepare new National Historic Landmark documentation for the city. This documentation, presently in preparation, cites 57 buildings and sites as contributing

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to the national significance of the city. These resources include all the surviving French vernacular buildings, contemporary Anglo-American buildings, and the earliest German vernacular building in the city. Sites included as contributing resources include the town cemetery, the eighteenth century town grid, the original town site, and the Common Field.

Recognizing that the city contained many more historically and architectural significant resources than those cited in the National Historic Landmark nomination, the City of Ste. Genevieve sought and, in 2000, received a state grant to prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the city.

The historic contexts were determined by study of important trends in the history of the community. The first context, settlement and initial development of Ste. Genevieve with an emphasis on French vernacular, Anglo-American vernacular and early German architecture, has already been established as the basis for national significance of the National Historic Landmark. The beginning date of this context was chosen to represent the first date of development of the community on its present site, the earliest period represented by extant buildings. The geographic area representative of this context was defined by the location of French vernacular houses, the most significant single property type in the community. The second context was defined by the change of the community from an insular one to one that interacted with the larger economic network. The period of this context was defined to extend from the first move outward, construction of the Plank Road, to the beginnings of the lime industry. This latter event transformed the economy of the city and also physically transformed it as business and residential districts grew to accommodate the needs of a growing population of workers. The growth that resulted from this expansion of the lime industry represents the third chronological context. This context relates to a suburbanization of Ste. Genevieve in which residential expansion occurred west, north and south of downtown. This period of significance ends fifty years prior to the present, the standard cutoff date for National Register eligibility. Because Ste. Genevieve is presently defined by its city limits, this was the geographic area chosen for this documentation.

Because architecture is an established area of significance in Ste. Genevieve, a final context is included that considers the architectural evolution of the community. As mentioned, this architectural evolution closely reflects the historic trends delineated in the chronological contexts.

The property types are organized chronologically by style and by function. The styles of the properties relates to important trends in the community from the initial French and Anglo-American settlement, to the influx of German immigrants, to the commercial and social connections to a larger area, to the integration of the community into a national network with the establishment of rail service. Architectural styles represented by residential property types were identified by field survey of the entire city. Because non-residential buildings represent a smaller though significant part of the building stock of the community, property types of these buildings were divided by function with no further subdivision by architectural style.

Registration requirements were developed from a combination of comprehensive field survey of the city and background research. During this field survey it was noted, for example, that many French vernacular buildings have undergone substantial alterations. It was known, however, because of work undertaken by Luer and Francis, that vertical log houses of the Mississippi River Valley are a sufficiently rare property type that any surviving example must be considered significant. For other property types, the field survey resulted in an overall assessment of the general level of integrity of the property type. The results of this assessment are included in the registration requirements for each of the property types.

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